



İstanbul

Syracuse University Abroad





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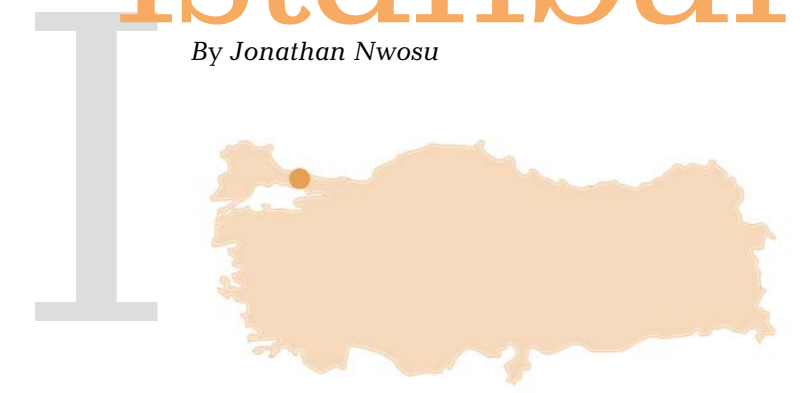
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Istanbul

By Jonathan Nwosu



Welcome wto Istanbul! A city with an abundance of history, culture, and modernity that transcends all descriptions. Situated on the Bosphorus River, Istanbul connects Europe and Asia and in many ways conflates the heritage and culture of the East with the modernity of the West.

Istanbul's unique and nuanced identity is pervasive throughout the city, evident in a skyline that proudly boasts ancient minarets alongside skyscrapers. In 2010 Istanbul was named the European City of Culture, in recognition of its distinctive heritage and cultural contributions to Europe.

While a historical and archeological treasure, Istanbul has all of the amenities of Europeanism, with modern museums and a vibrant social scene. Any visitor to this great and storied city should experience both aspects of Istanbul — as a historical landmark and as a modern European cultural capital.

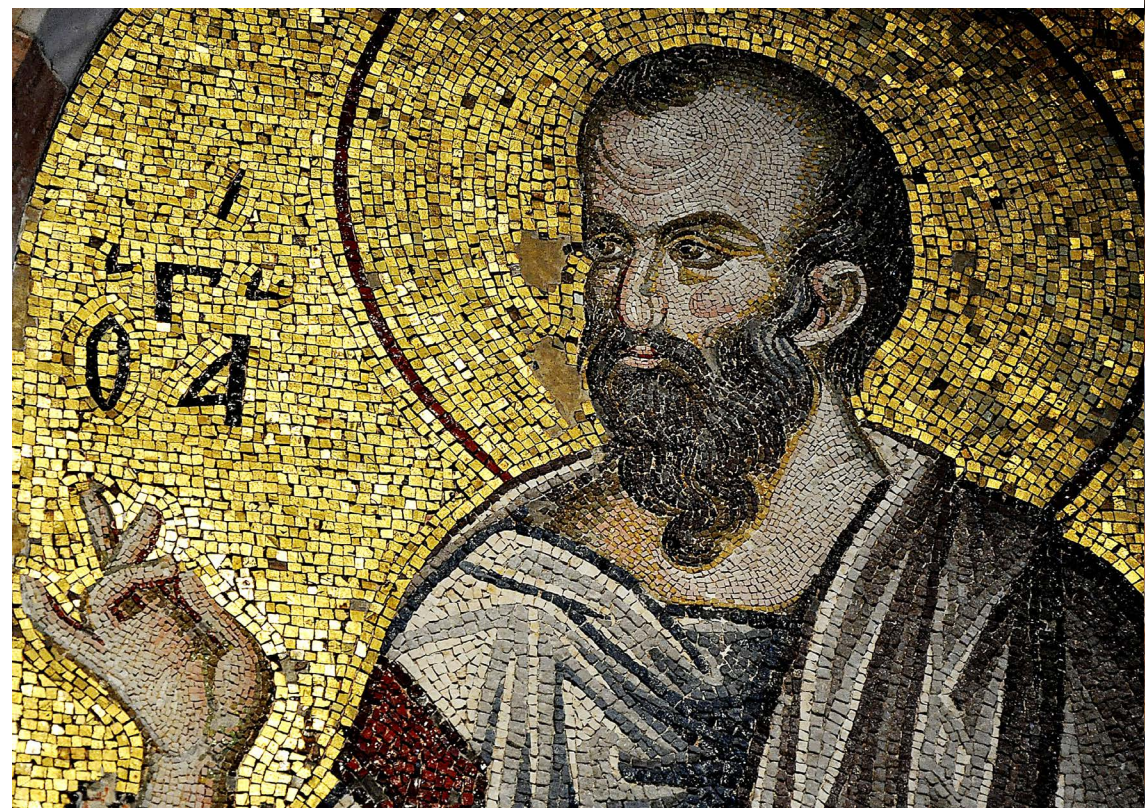
History

By Jonathan Nwosu

As a city with layers of civilizations, Istanbul has remnants of the ancient city of Byzantium, the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, and all of the contemporary developments of the modern republic of Turkey.

Modern day Istanbul was founded as the ancient city of Byzantium before the Common Era. The importance of the city would be highlighted in 330 A.D. when Roman Emperor Constantine the First renamed it Constantinople and declared it the new capital of the Empire. After centuries as the capital of the Byzantine Empire, Constantinople was conquered in 1453 by Mehmet II and made the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Through the tumultuous centuries of the Ottoman Empire, Constantinople's importance burgeoned as the epicenter of an all-encompassing Empire.

With the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire following World War I and the creation of the Turkish Republic, Constantinople received its contemporary name of Istanbul and no longer served as the capital. While Ankara is now the nation's capital and has obvious political importance, Istanbul is regarded as the social, economic and cultural heart of the nation.



GO

By Jonathan Nwosu
and Maddy Jones

Any visitor to Istanbul is overwhelmed by the multiple and varied options of things to do. Istanbul is separated into multiple districts, each with its own unique quality. In the ancient part of the city, or Sultan Ahmet, there are numerous mosques like the Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque. Also, the Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome, Yerebatan Cistern, and Grand Bazaar all warrant a visit.

Istanbul Modern

Located in the Beyoglu district right on the Bosphorus. Offers the best modern art in Turkey. Your museum card gets you in for free.

Yerebatan Cistern

Largest ancient cistern in Istanbul. Has a big carved upside down Medusa head. They even hold classical concerts here.

Chora Church

Considered one of the most beautiful examples of a Byzantine Church. Enough said.

Dolmabahce Palace

Built in 1843 and was the home to many Sultans and Atatürk. A beautiful mix of Ottoman and European style art and architecture. Has the largest chandelier in the world.

Rustem Pasha Mosque

Overshadowed by more famous mosques like the Blue and New Mosques, but just as beautiful. Designed by Mimar Sinan who is regarded as the architectural boss of Turkey.

Bebek

This historic district is on the Bosphorus just a short bus ride from school. Very pretty and has lots of parks. Great restaurants. Had the best burger ever here, ironically.



DO

By Maddy Jones

Do Anything in Taksim

Where do I even begin with Taksim? Along Istiklal Caddesi you will find bars, clubs, cafes, shopping, restaurants, more bars, markets, the list goes on. So much to do in one place. Just a metro stop from the dorms.

Attend a Soccer Game

Turks love their football. It's intense. You would be missing out if you didn't go to a game. There are many teams in Istanbul, so choose wisely where your loyalty will lie. There's Fenerbahce, Besiktas JK, and Galatasaray to name a few. Besiktas Inonu Stadium is just a short walk from Dolmabahce.

Smoke Nargile

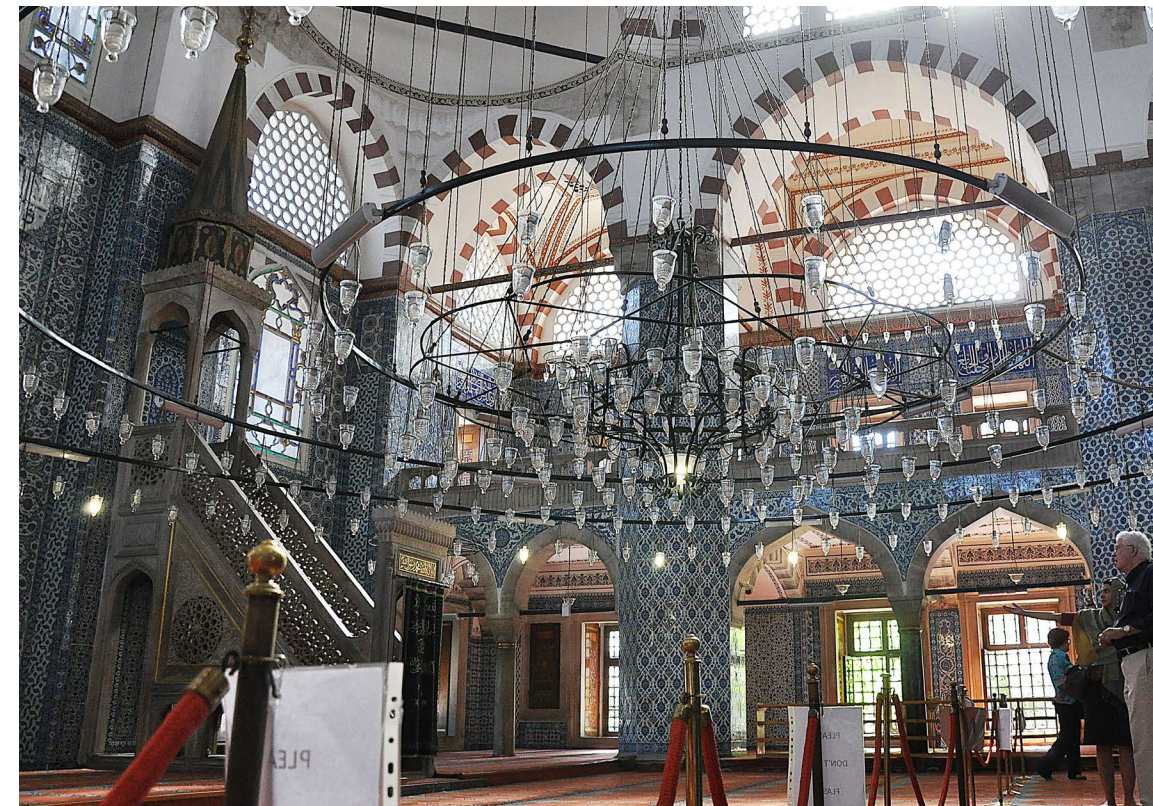
Means hookah in Arabic. Nargile cafes are everywhere but some of the best places can be found in Tophane. Legit, tea-drinking, smoke-filled nargile cafes.

Chill on Bahariye Caddesi

A pedestrian street on the Asian side. Similar to Istiklal but way more relaxed. Has a different vibe. Lots of shopping, a nice market, restaurants, and some bars.

Take a Turkish bath

The dreaded and loved Turkish bath. I was afraid, did it, now I'm a believer. There are some really pretty, historic ones in the Sultan Ahmet area. Ask around and figure out the best one for you. Got scrubbed, flipped over like a pancake, washed clean, and massaged. It was fantastic.



Eat & Drink

By Dan Cowen

As part of the Mediterranean region, Turkey is expected to have some of the most delicious food selections in the world. You will be surprised to find that Turkey carries all the ingredients of the Mediterranean, but takes a unique twist that is reminiscent of the Ottoman days.

To get a taste of the Ottoman times step in to the old city of Sultanahmet and eat a casserole out of a clay pot. Of course you can't go a week with out devouring a kebab — best and freshest Kofte and Chicken Kebabs are in Karikoy on the Asian side of the city at Ciya, or any of the places along the street at Topkapi Palace. If it is vegetables that you really enjoy, the best bet is to try the varieties of eggplants, particularly aborigine. The lentil soups are a necessity and supplement any meal perfectly.

After a night on the town, grab 2 or 3 Islak Hamburgers, or a Kokorec Sandwich in the Balik Bazaar in Taksim. If you're adventurous, toss a lira to one of the clam vendors and down them until you are full. The best advice I can give however is, to get out of the city to the countryside where the food quality is fresher and mouth watering

Doner Durum

Delicious shaved meats stuffed in a wrap with veggies and a spicy sauce. You'll see doner, these large hunks of juicy meat, everywhere. Quick, dirty, delicious.

Iskender Kebap

A more filling shaved meat variety. It's drenched in butter and supplemented with fresh tomato sauce soaked bread served with yogurt. (Bottom right)

Balik Ekmek (Fish Bread)

If Fish tickles your fancy, there is nothing simpler and more filling than fish bread from one of the boats that pull on the shore next to the Galata Bridge. For more savory fish, try a restaurant on the Galata Bridge.

Manti

Turkish Ravioli. Little morsels of meat stuffed in dough in a yogurty sauce. When done right, it melts in your mouth.



Baklava (top right)
Iskender (bottom right)
Spice Market (next page)



Seminar Sites

By Jonathan Nwosu

During our pre-semester, seminar we were privileged to visit most of the major sites in Istanbul. Coupled with lectures giving necessary historical contexts, these visits were an enormously helpful way of understanding the city's historical evolution. Here are some of the pre-semester sites:

Hippodrome

Originally built as an arena for chariot races during the Byzantine Empire, the walls of the Hippodrome have since been knocked down. Nevertheless, there is still one structure from the original arena showcasing the former beauty of the Hippodrome. Today, it serves as a lovely park in the historical part of the city, Sultan Ahmet, and neighbors several important mosques as well as the imperial palace.

Hagia Sophia

In many ways, the Hagia Sophia is emblematic of Istanbul's growth and development over time. Originally built as a church during the Byzantine Empire, it was transformed into a mosque under Ottoman rule. Over the centuries, the Hagia Sophia has been the site of countless great events and bares true the rich culture and heritage of the city.

Archeological Museum

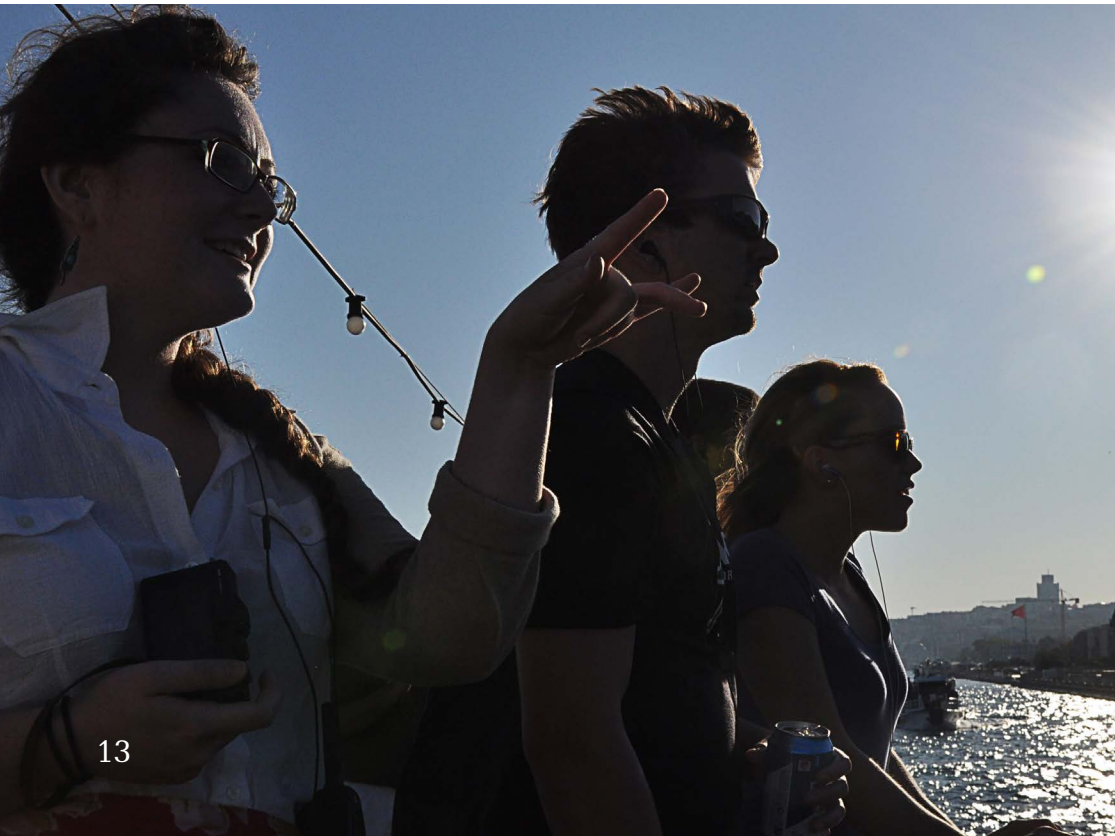
As one of the premier museums in the world, the Archeological Museum houses a vast, diverse, and impressive collection. Lovers of history and art will appreciate everything from ancient sculptures to catacomb.

Topkapi Palace

As the home of the Sultans from the 15th to 19th centuries, Topkapi Palace has a rich history and is of great importance to Istanbul's identity. Along with beautiful and elegant rooms and the harem for the women of the palace, there is an impressive museum housing such things as biblical artifacts and other prized possessions of the Sultans.

Dolmabahce Palace

Modeled after the Palace at Versailles in Paris, the Dolmabahce Palace has all of the splendor associated with a nineteenth century palace. The Palace is saturated with gold, highlighting the greatness of the Ottoman Empire.



Helpful Tips

By Maddy Jones



1 Getting Around

With bus or taxi, always give yourself more time. Because there will be traffic. And it will be crowded. But really, Turks are pretty laid back and it's normal to be late, running on what I affectionately call "Turkish Time." The common, all-encompassing excuse "Oh, sorry I'm late. The traffic was terrible!"

2 For Packing

Pack light. There's plenty of fantastic shopping in Istanbul. I bought a winter jacket and warm clothes when I got there so I didn't weigh my suitcase down. Refrain from packing 10 bottles of shampoo. Don't be that guy.

3 The Best Places

I found that often the best bars, restaurants, clubs, whatever were the ones not seen. The big flashy places aren't always the best. Ask Turkish friends or other students you meet where they go for a drink, a dance, or a bite. Be adventurous (but not stupid).

4 Learn Turkish

Or as much as you can. Sounds painfully obvious, I know. But, really, take as much in as you can in the Survival Turkish course. Even try and learn some before you come. English is pretty sparse (aside from school,) so the more you know the easier you can, you know, communicate.

5 Clothes (for the ladies)

Girls always stress about what they will bring to Turkey because it's more conservative than America. Don't stress. It's a good idea to bring a scarf so when you visit mosques you can cover up and not look like a rude tourist. For clothes, simply don't wear anything that's going to attract a lot of attention to yourself, because as a foreigner, you already stand out. Don't overthink it. If you a) would wear it to a frat party b) your momma would give you the stink eye or c) all of the above, then don't wear it.

Two weeks, two great program directors, one tourguide, one fantastic professor, one Sidar, and a handful of scraggly college kids- your signature seminar! At the basic level, that's what it is, but in that fourteen days you're going to learn more about the Byzantines, Ottomans, and Turks than you ever could have imagined. You will say "wow" an innumerable amount of times. You will see more history than you ever have before. You will hear the phrase "buddy check!" way too often. You will learn more Turkish than you probably ever have. So prepare yourself because it's going to be one of the most informative, memorable, fun, and mind-blowing experiences of your life.

Signature Seminar

By Maddy Jones





During the Signature Seminar, Professor Alex Medina will give history lectures and accompany the group to all the historical sites in and around Istanbul. He's taught at the SU Madrid program for 21 years, but for the past 3 semesters he has been providing the SU Istanbul program with a deep knowledge, compassion, and love of history.

Whether you are already a history buff or if you couldn't care less about history, it doesn't matter. During lectures and tours, Professor Medina will have you eagerly leaning in so you can hear him passionately tell you one more story about a mosaic, or about the architecture of a mosque, or about the people who once lived there. He will have your heart and your mind wanting more. His passion for history has always been, but this love grew from living in a country like Spain steeped in history and from his early academic training of studying philosophy, he said. History, according to Professor Medina, isn't just what happened when and where. To him, it is "realizing that we are the most recent links in a long chain that stretches back till the beginnings of the universe," he said.

The beauty of Istanbul and Turkey, the kindness and friendship of its people, and the wonderful guidance of Director Erika Wilkens are a few things he loves about teaching in Istanbul, he said. But what he loves most, is the quality of the students. "The fact is that the students who come to study in Istanbul are first-rate, and that is always a teacher's dream."

With such a deep knowledge of history of religion, political science, art, history, and literature, Professor Medina has many stories to tell you. Because that's what he does, he doesn't teach — he tells stories. His compassion and love behind every story is what touches each student to come through the SU Istanbul program. So get ready, Alex Medina is about to blow your mind with knowledge and fill your heart with passion.

Alex Medina

By Maddy Jones



"The fact is that the students who come to Istanbul are first-rate, and that is always a teacher's dream"

Bursa

By Morgan Wahlstrom



{ Birthplace of
Iskender Kebap }
y u m m m



Our first stop was Bursa, which was also the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. We visited a mosque that housed the tombs of a great number of Ottoman Sultans, and just to be in a room with so many of Turkey's historical figures was amazing. Bursa has grown into a great urban center, and we spent much of our time there simply walking through the streets, experiencing a much different and more conservative culture than that of Istanbul. We eventually found our way to a pretty outdoor cafe at the top of a hill where we all enjoyed hot cups of cay and relaxed. We stayed in a wonderful hotel that night where we all tasted "iskender" (a traditional Ottoman dish) for the first time and spent time as a group by the pool and pool side bar.



Edirne

By Dan Littlepage



{ Home to some
of Turkey's best
cheese }
peynir

Edirne is the second capital city of the Ottoman Empire before it was moved to Constantinople. Edirne is home to one of Mimar Sinan's famous mosques, Selimiye Mosque. It is a truly amazing feat of architecture with the tallest minarets in Turkey. Our morning trip to Edirne was short and allowed us to only see some of these historical sites before returning to Istanbul. One thing that Edirne is famous for is the oil-wrestling tournament called Kirkpinar. Unfortunately, we were unable to see this, but if you get a chance to venture there it is definitely worth experiencing one of the oldest active sports organizations.



A chain of nine islands just off the coast of Istanbul, make up the Princes' Islands. During the Byzantine and Ottoman periods, royalty were exiled here. Then, during the 19th century, the Prince's Islands became a popular vacation spot for the wealthy, so there are many Victorian-era houses still preserved on some of the islands.

The Princes' Islands are still popular vacation spots for Turks living in Istanbul looking to get away from the city for a day or a weekend. Year-round there are about 15,000 permanent residents scattered across the six islands. In tourist season, however, the numbers swell to about 100,000. Ferries go to the islands from Kabatas and multiple spots on the Asian side.

We traveled to Buyukada, meaning "big island" in Turkish, which is the largest of the nine. There is a little shopping district by the clock tower and there are many places to sit and eat while enjoying the beautiful weather. One of the appeals about Buyukada is that motorized vehicles are forbidden. Combined with the beautiful houses, the absence of car noise pollution gives this island a very laid back and calm feel. This can be a welcome relief from the sometimes overwhelming traffic and crowds of Istanbul. Visitors explore the island on foot, ride a bike (there are many places to rent), or hop in a horse-drawn carriage which function as taxis. We rode in the carriages and then walked up the highest peak on the island. At the top, there was a beautiful church, the Ayia Yorgi Church and Monastery, dating back to the 6th century. Being the highest point, there was of course, a breathtaking view of the Marmara Sea and Istanbul off in the distance. Our group enjoyed a lunch at a cafe and then we were given free time to explore.

Princes' Islands

By Maddy Jones



{ Named after the
royalty exiled here }

That's harsh, Ottomans



I recommend you return to the Princes' Islands on your own and check out some of the island other than Buyukada. Heybeliada is the second largest island. It has a naval cadet school that overlooks the jetty of the ferry pier. There is also some interesting architecture — Kamariotissa, the last Byzantine church to be built before the conquest of Constantinople and the grave of an English Ambassador sent by Elizabeth I herself who chose to remain on Heybeliada because he loved it so much. The third largest island, Burgazada, is another beautiful island worth visiting. On this island there is a fort built by a successor of Alexander the Great and a museum for a famous Turkish writer.

Troy

By Maddy Jones



{ Yes, for real, }
{ THE Troy }
history

Troy — most famously known as the site of the Trojan War and the setting of the Iliad. With ruins dating back to 3000 BC, when you step onto the ancient site of Troy it's like you're stepping back into time. The ruins you will visit have survived wars, migrations, earthquakes, and thousands of years of contesting. Troy was destroyed and rebuilt nine times over, and what remains are different pieces of layers of the city. On our drive to Troy, we watched the movie Troy starring Brad Pitt (of course) and we spent an afternoon exploring the sites. There's a large horse statue (reconstructed obviously) which you can climb up inside. Troy is just 30km south of Canakkale where we spent the night after enjoying a day at Troy.



Canakkale

By Maddy Jones



Pronounced
chaa - nak - kaa - leh

{ Burak's }
{ hometown }
fact

A small seaport town on the coast of the Dardanelles Strait, Canakkale boasts a population of about 106,000. This town is the nearest to the ancient site of Troy, where we also went during our seminar. Canakkale has territory in both Europe and Asia, and so it is the second city to be situated on two continents. History suggests that Canakkale was established in 4000 BC, but others guess its history began with Troy between 3500 — 3000 BC.

While visiting the sites of Troy, our group stayed in a hotel in Canakkale. There is a long pedestrian path lining the water with a ferry port, many restaurants, and cafes. I think everyone in our group enjoyed roaming along the peaceful water and relaxing at cafes after the busy schedule of the signature seminar. Being a coastal town, there are some wonderful fish restaurants.

Gallipoli



Derived from
"Kallipolis"
which means
"beautiful City"
Greek

As a historically important location, Gallipoli is the site of a battle that brought Winston Churchill and the Allied forces against Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and his Ottoman troops in World War I. In an effort to take the Dardanelles Strait, which connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea, the Allied forces faced a formidable opponent in the Ottomans, which would result in one of the war's most gruesome battles. Ataturk's legend as a war hero began in Gallipoli, as he defended the highest hill in the region. The site is now adorned with numerous monuments to those that lost their lives, both Allies and Ottomans. A visit to Gallipoli highlights the importance of the battle to WWI and the development of Turkey in those turbulent years.



Bahcesehir University

By Maddy Jones

BU campuses in Istanbul **2**

36 kindergartens owned by BU

international programs **100**

2878 grad students

undergrad students **5938**



Background

By Jonathan Nwosu

While in Istanbul, students in the Syracuse program are enrolled at Bahcesehir University. As a relatively new university, only established in 1998, Bahcesehir has a vibrant learning environment with new facilities, motivated Turkish and international students, and an energetic faculty. With a picturesque campus in Besiktas right on the Bosphorus River, Bahcesehir is an exciting place to learn! Also, the university is accommodating for a wide array of students with Faculty in Arts and Science, Engineering, Law, Management, Architecture, among others.

You just finished class and you stroll outside. Students, Turkish and other nationalities, are milling about drinking coffee and tea, smoking cigarettes, and socializing just like any other college around the world. But you look out across the water and what do you see? Asia! Not a bad view.

Bahcesehir University is located on the new European side of Istanbul on the Bosphorus Straight overlooking the Asian (also called the “Anatolian”) side of the city. Major ferry and bus stations are located right next to the school which can take you anywhere in Istanbul. Bahcesehir is located in the heart of Besiktas (beh — sheek — tahsh), a busy and bustling center of Istanbul. Just a few minutes walk from the university there are cafes, restaurants, shops, banks, etc.



Quick, Useful (and awesome) Tips about Besiktas

By Maddy Jones

- Beer Point and Beer Port — two restaurants right next to school. Similar names but so different. Beer *Port* is way better — cheaper, yummiier, funkier, (did I say cheaper?), and well frankly, larger quantities of beer.
- The bus back to the dorms (30 M) is literally steps from school. Super easy to find because it has its own little station separate from the big station.
- Big Simit is a cafe right in front of school. (Also known as Hobbiton due to its bizarrely low ceilings and tiny chairs on the top floor. Why are they so low? It’s a mystery.) Pretty cheap yet pretty good chicken doner among other foods. Good place to eat and study because you get free wifi.
- 5 min walk there’s a statue of an eagle. In this area there’s lots of shops, a fish market, and food places. Had the best kebab and kokorec of my life in the depths of Besiktas. Couldn’t tell you where. That’s part of the allure. Go get lost and you’ll find something awesome!
- 20 min walk from school there’s a Saturday organic market (near the MMM Migros). Cheap, quality produce. Tomatoes, grapes, parsley, cheese, onions, everything. You’ll probably be the only non-Turk there which just makes it more legit.
- Another 5 min walk there’s a shopping mall by the McDonalds. Bottom floor there’s a post office and top floor has a place that repairs broken laptops or electronics. Sounds like a useless tip but you’ll thank me later.
- Best place to print — copy center on the road in between building A of the school and Big Simit. Slightly less crowded and way easier to use than the school’s. Copy Center inside school is always busy, long lines, and you have to set up an account. Lame. So go to this place instead.

International Students Office

By Joe Assante

The International Student's Office at Bahcesehir has played a significant role in helping us become better acquainted with Istanbul. From sponsoring social events with other international students to making sure that we got our bus passes and residency permits, the office has made life in a new city a little less overwhelming. The people working in the office are students just like us and were happy to answer any of our questions.



Syracuse University Office

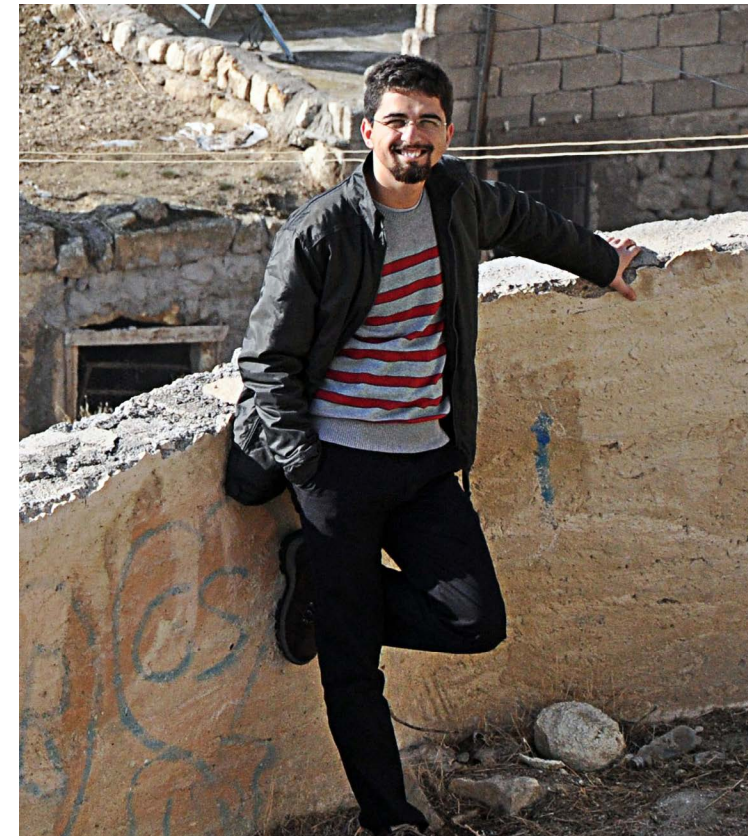
By Maddy Jones

The SU Istanbul Center is located in the heart of Bahcesehir University. Students stop by the office with questions or problems with anything related to academics, dormitories, or general inquiries about living in Istanbul. Burak and Erika are very friendly and will help you with any problems you may encounter.



Burak Tamac

Burak Tamac is the assistant program director. Burak was born in Canakkle where the ancient city of Troy is (yeah, that's right, he's a Trojan — be impressed). He studied political science at Kocaeli University, which is right next to the Asian side of Istanbul. After that he went to Bilgi University from 2008 — 2010 to obtain his master's degree in international relations. Next he moved back to his hometown, and returned to Istanbul in the fall of 2011 when he began working at the SU Abroad office. Burak is a welcoming and fun person, so whether you have academic questions or just want to chill, he's always there for you.



Erika Wilkens

Erika Wilkens-Sozen is the director of the SU Istanbul Office. She is originally from Canada and she started this program at Bahcesehir University. Her husband, Yunus Sozen teaches at Bahcesehir and together they have a daughter named Asya. Erika teaches the class Contemporary Issues in Turkey which all students in the program are required to take. Erika will be more than your professor; she also guides you with any problems or questions you encounter. Her door is always open welcoming you in.



Internships

By Maddy Jones

The SU office can hook you up with any internship they have connections with. Some students taught English at schools, some interned at law firms, some did research etc. Talk to Erika or Burak to get more information about internships and they will help you find one that's right for you. Below is an example an available internship.

CEKUL Foundation

This non-profit organization seeks to preserve Turkey's urban and natural environment in order to protect its natural resources and cultural heritage. I was working with the pamphlets, posters, and maps of Beyoglu — correcting their design and creating new layouts for their English literature. The foundation is in Beyoglu and only a metro stop away from the Sisli dorms. I went in once or twice a week for a few hours and I learned a lot about Turkish people, culture, and language while working alongside my Turkish colleagues. Recommend CEKUL to anyone who is looking to do research or work with the design/media aspect like me.



Our Travels

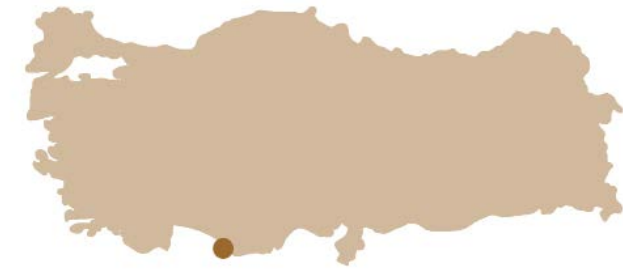
By Maddy Jones



Mountains, water, beaches, forests, big cities, small towns, hot weather, cool weather — Turkey offers all of the above. Turkey has so many places to visit and lots of history to explore. Relax on a beach in the South or visit a lush, foresty, coastal town in the North. Whether you're looking for relaxation, adventure, history, or just a good time you can find it in Turkey. This is a collection of some of the places we traveled to on our own. We encourage you to check them out, and to go explore some of the many other places Turkey has to offer.

Patara

By Jeremy Wadsworth



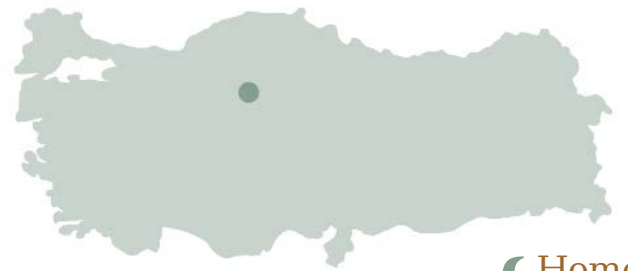
{ Birthplace of
Santa Claus }
seriously

A few weeks into our semester in Istanbul, a group of students decided to venture to famous Patara Beach situated on the southern coast of Turkey. Patara Beach is known as one of the most beautiful beaches in the country and it sure lived up to that billing. We were fantastically lucky in that we visited during tourist off-season and yet benefited from a weekend of gorgeous weather. The beach is 12 kilometers long and is full of beautiful, white sand all the way out into the lukewarm water. One afternoon we decided to venture off of the beach and explore the rocky cliffs adjacent to the ocean. We discovered a private cove with a jumping rock that felt like we were in a Hollywood film. The next day we took a canoeing adventure down a fast-flowing river that ended in the sea. The canoeing adventure included a mud bath in which I believe all would agree was a highlight of the weekend. One of the other exceptional qualities of Patara Beach are the incredible ruins throughout the land near the coast. Ancient columns, run down buildings, and olden Roman carvings are strewn about the area and really allows one to connect with the past. I believe all would agree that Patara was a highlight of the semester and a highly recommended visit for future travelers.



Ankara

By Jonathan Nwosu



{ Home of the
ancient breed,
Turkish Angora }
really old cats

As Turkey's capital city, Ankara has considerable political importance. While it doesn't hold the historical and cultural splendor of Istanbul, Ankara is important in its own right and has numerous sites that are definitely worth a visit. Any visitor to Ankara would be remiss without visiting the Anitkabir (Ataturk Mausoleum) and Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. The Anitkabir is the nation's opulent memorial to its founding father, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, and includes a small park with gardens, statues, and Ataturk's tomb. The memorial is replete with an underground museum that details and honors Ataturk's many brave exploits. One of the best museums in the world, the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations houses some of the best collections from central Anatolia, detailing history from up to 7500 years ago! These two sites are conveniently near one another via taxi. While Ankara is sufficient for a day-trip, an adventurous traveler can extend their stay for a full weekend and include trips to the historic Citadel and the beautiful Turkish Parliament building.



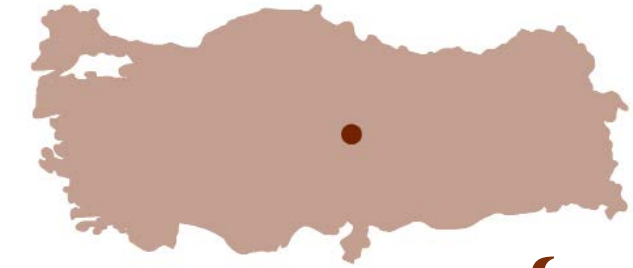
To round off the semester, the Cappadocia trip consummated Professor Medina's central seminar theme of the pendular character and history of Turkey (From Edirne to Canakkale, Bursa to Kayseri) while providing an opportune and refreshing chance for the program students to enjoy a relaxed and intriguing weekend together; a last hoorah, if you will, before finals and returning home. It was quite unanimously appreciated as the icing on the cake within the Istanbul Abroad experience. The weather held up beautifully throughout the weekend, providing for engaging adventures amongst the dynamic geological and historical phenomena that is Cappadocia.

We became very familiar with the nature of the exhaustive and ever-changing cave life, including a look at dwellings, grave sites and Byzantine frescos in rock churches at Goreme Open Air Museum, arguably the best existing example of the variety and depth of ancient cave structures. We learned of their functioning as hideouts for early Christians during second century Roman persecutions and during 7th century Arab invasions, a practical, creative use of the soft sandstone exposed by erosion of tufa boulders from volcanic activity. Our hike acquainted us with an unmatched look at various Fairy Chimneys, numerous examples of cave life, in all kinds of structures- pigeon homes, too — some wonderful cider-like Hot Wine, and the ultimate destination of a gorgeous



Cappadocia

By Rachel Cary



{ Derived from Persian
"Katpatuka" meaning
"land of fine horses" }

Where the horses at?

cave city, illustrating a great example of new sculpting amongst quite old examples. In this small village, men of all ages were hard at work on contributions to this fleeting and exceptional way of life. Among other wonders we saw, the ancient underground city of Kaymakli, which was absolutely a highlight. Here, we weaved our way through narrow, winding passages that unveiled a fabulous history of historical Christian survival in a hidden world containing 7 floors of underground life, with all of the expected structural needs of the time.

Other exciting bonuses enjoyed include our behind-the-scenes look into the many wonders on the private property of a man living in remnants of above-ground village, Mustafapasa, with a great church, and various cave features. Lastly, we got to see the inner workings of a wonderful, family-owned pottery company in Avanos and soon-to-be museum cut deep into a large sandstone hill. To be sure, these were unforgettable seminar moments.

Bodrum

By Dan Cowen



{ History, sun,
food, drink }
Not bad

During the warmer months, the crowds of Istanbul may get stuffy and overwhelming, and the perfect remedy is a weekend in the coastal town of Bodrum. Known for its eclectic celebrity party scene, Bodrum brings the energy of Istanbul nightclubs to the waterfront. Spend your mornings relaxing in sun chairs sipping on Mojitos, your afternoons downtown in the ancient castle and on the shore checking out yachts and wrap it all up with an endless night at the clubs or at the outdoor bars that most hotels have. If you go to Bodrum with a group of friends you can either go for the reasonable all-inclusive hotels, or only spend money outside of the hotel on the club scene, or you can get a cheap hotel in the same area and try the local cuisine. As the resort town caters to celebs the options for the all-inclusive are more accessible. To get to Bodrum you fly in to either Dalaman or Bodrum Airport and then take a taxi to the hotel. I recommend a weekend in this little paradise with a big group of people.



If you are just someone who enjoys the outdoors, beautiful views, and doesn't mind some strenuous physical activity, you will be greatly rewarded and satisfied spending a week hiking the Lycian Way. Before describing the unparalleled beauty you will find at almost every corner of the hike it is important to know that at times the trail is poorly marked, and it is better to underestimate your abilities than to over estimate. Before departing visit a local hiking store to pick up whatever gear you neglected to bring to Turkey (sleeping bag, tent, flashlight, nuts, dried fruits, fleeces, etc.) and the official Lycian Way map book. Also, it is very beneficial to bring along a friend with an iPhone or other comparable GPS and to download a program and a map of the trail.

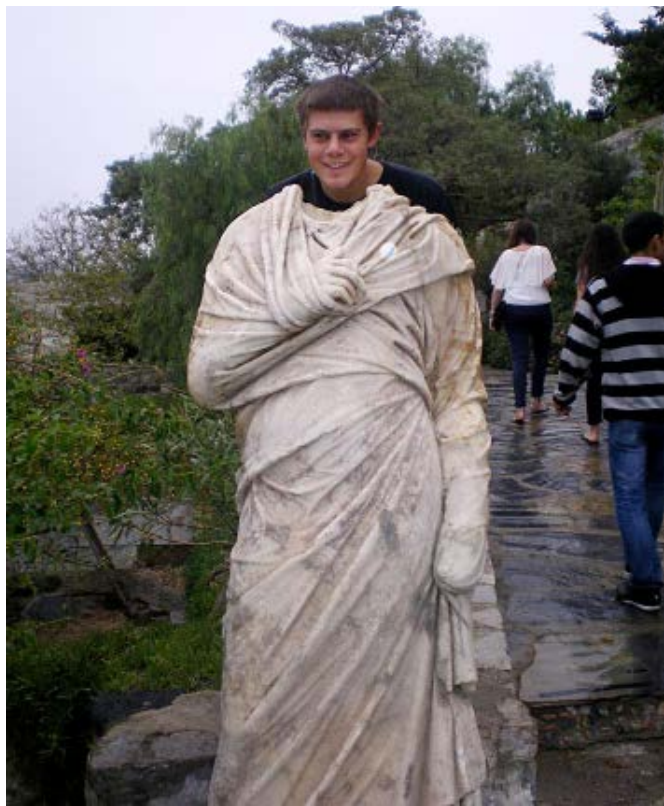
As the trail is 500 kilometers there are multiple locations from which one can begin and/or end, and in the Lycian book it presents you with a few different itineraries. The Antalya Airport is closest to the beginning of the trail while the Dalaman Airport is closest to the end of the trail. Regardless of where you are hiking you will experience breathtaking views of the mountains cascading over the Mediterranean, rivers and waterfalls weaving through trees, only to be interrupted by small sparsely inhabited beach shanties with hostel/restaurants serving the freshest foods (so fresh chickens run around in kitchens). There are also buses that you can take between the towns if you want to skip certain parts of the trail to reach other points. A favorite spot are the tree houses of Olympus where you can spend the night in a bungalow and talk about life's difficulties with worldly hippies around the fire. Easily the best trip of the semester in Istanbul that not only exposes you to pristine nature at its best, but brings together friends in a way that no dormitory in any college can.

Lycian Way

By Dan Cowen



{ Opened in 1999 }
Nature



Antalya

By Kyra Murphy



{Founded in}
150 BC
} *history*



Antalya was incredible! We spent a little less than a week there and we did everything from swimming in the Mediterranean to eating Kofte Piyaz, riding camels and racing go-carts! The most impressive sites to see in Antalya are the Perge ruins, an ancient Greco-Roman city that is still being excavated, Kaleci (The “old city” of Antalya) which contains the Fluted Minaret and the old castle walls, including Hadrian’s Gate and the Duden Waterfalls. All of these places were incredible to experience and help Antalya to be one of the most interesting regions of Turkey.

In Perge, you can stray from the paths and actually climb through all of the ruins! It makes the experience 3 times as exciting as just walking around and glancing at the fallen buildings. And Kaleci is not only home to many of the historical aspects of the region but also to huge markets woven throughout the maze-like city streets, where you can buy amazing handmade crafts and tons of Turkish tea. Staying in Antalya will be a trip that is never forgotten: incredible food, ridiculous adventures (how many tourists can say they raced go-carts or rode camels in Turkey?) and amazing friends.



