



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Autumn 2026

School trip: Istanbul Fri 14th – Tues 18th July 2028 Open to all students in current 9-12

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to announce details of our **5 day trip to Istanbul in July 2028 which is open to all students in current years 9-12**. Istanbul is truly a world city where east meets west along the old silk road. Home to Rome, Byzantium, the Ottomans & the modern Turkish Republic. Istanbul is a cultural melting pot of Christian and Islamic traditions set in a vibrant, modern Turkey that is developing rapidly. We will fly from Birmingham to Istanbul and have an exciting schedule visiting cultural, historic sites and developing students' independence skills. We will stay in the old city- in Sultanahmet- and be very close to the major attractions.

The school have chosen Visons in Education to lead our trip and are financially protected by ABTA and ATOL. I have previously lived in Istanbul and know the city well. In 2024 and 2026 we previously ran this trip. Our experienced team of staff means we are in a position to offer this extremely rare opportunity to visit a great city.

Dates: **Fri 14th July 2028- Tues 18th July 2028** (all GCSE & A-Level public exams will have finished by this date)

Below is the provisional itinerary.

Day 1: Meet at Birmingham airport, direct flight to Istanbul. Arrival into Istanbul. Transfer to accommodation and free time to acclimatise and rest before dinner

Day 2: Tour of the old city; Sultanahmet: the Roman Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, The Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace. Evening: Whirling Dervish performance.

Day 3: The Grand Bazaar, Taksim Square, visit one of the oldest Turkish delight shops in the city, panoramic city views from the 14th Century Venetian Galata Tower, The Basilica Cistern - setting of James Bond films! The Egyptian Bazaar.

Day 4: AM Boat cruise up the Bosphorus. PM: choice- opportunity to pray in Blue Mosque or visits in Sultanahmet including the Archaeological Museum.

Day 5: Return to the UK

The cost of the trip £1,765 and the payment plan is below.

Deposit due now: £255

Second payment by 1st November 2026: £255

Third payment by 1st April 2027: £500

Final Payment by 1st Sept 2027: £500

Final Payment by 1st Feb 2028: £255

This includes the following:

- Flights and hotel accommodation in a well maintained, modern 4* hotel
- Breakfast and Dinner
- Entrance to all attractions
- Tour guide
- Comprehensive medical insurance provided by the school

Not included in the price:

- Two Lunches- this will be 'on the go' in the city.
- One lunch we shall visit a superb authentic Turkish restaurant overlooking The Gloden Horn, famous for its picacho kebabs among other lovely dishes. Budget around £25 for this meal.
- Any Turkish Visas and any passport requirements. UK passports are visa free. Your passport must be valid until at least 1st November 2028.
- Any cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- Personal spending money
- We will meet/ collect at Birmingham Airport

We appreciate this is a major trip and we have tried to keep costs to a minimum and offer the best value. Payments can be made in smaller amounts before the deadlines shown above as long as payment deadlines are met. On Parent Mail, simply type in the amount you want to pay. Note, to secure a place on the trip a full deposit is required. Please note that once deposits have been made these are non-refundable and you are financially committed to the trip.

- **Financial Assistance**

At Queen Mary's, we would like to enable students to take part in co-curricular activities such as this trip, and to ensure that there is no participation gap due to family circumstances. Firstly, students eligible for Pupil Premium (Bursary funding in 6th form) may receive funding of £100 per academic year. Also, The QM Foundation Bursary is another avenue of support which could part fund the trip. The school will consider other applications from families in need of financial support on a case-by-case basis. Our Avenues of Support form is available on our website and can be found [Here](#)

- **Flight Assumptions** - Please know that air flights are not yet available for our time of travel as this is booked once the trip is confirmed and can change daily. The tour company have given us a fair assumption of applicable flight fees. If the air fees are increased above what has been included in the cost assumption, Visions has the right to increase the quote if necessary.
- **Behaviour**

Students who wish to participate in this trip will be required to show the highest standards of behaviour and courtesy during the trip. Students' previous conduct, as well as their conduct following booking, will be reviewed. Where a student presents a risk to the safety, wellbeing, or experience of others, this may result in exclusion from the visit or a requirement to return home early, at the expense of parents or carers.

Please see the last page below for some images and information on the sights. Any questions, please ask.

Yours sincerely
Mr Reynolds
Trip leader & Head of History
r.reynolds@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk

Mr Richard Langton
Headmaster



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Some of the sights we will visit:



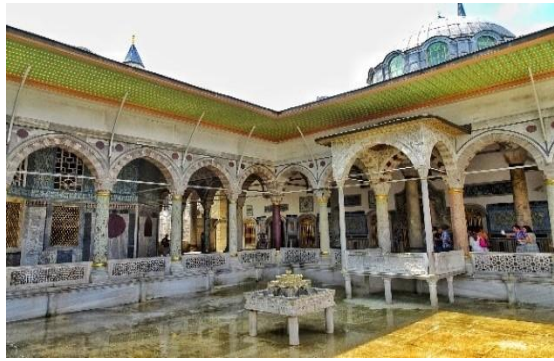
The Whirling Dervish



The 1,500 year old Byzantine Hagia Sophia



Delicious Turkish cuisine overlooking the Golden Horn. Topkapi Palace: Home to the Ottoman Sultans



Queen Mary's 2024 trip: Egyptian bazaar and looking across to Asia at The Bosphorus

Bosphorus Cruise Excursion by boat along the waterway separating Europe and Asia. The shore is lined with old wooden villas, Ottoman palaces of marble, fortresses, and small fishing villages. **RUMELI FORTRESS** Built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 prior to the conquest of Constantinople.