



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

March 2023

School trip Istanbul July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to announce details of a 5 day trip to Istanbul in July 2024 that is open to all students in current Years 9-12. Istanbul is truly a world city being where east meets west along the old silk road. Home to 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 of visiting cultural and historic sites. We will stay in the old city- in Sultanahmet and be very close to the major attractions.

The school have chosen Visions in Education to lead our trip. They have ran previous trips with the school and are financially protected by ABTA and ATOL. I have previously lived in Istanbul and know the city well.

The cost of the trip is £1,200 and is from Tues 9th July- Sat 13th July 2024.

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:

- Lunch- this will be 'on the go' in the city from the numerous vendors.
- Turkish Visas and any passport requirements
- Any cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- Personal spending money
- We will meet/ collect at Birmingham Airport

Flight Assumptions - Please know that air flights are not yet available for our time of travel. 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 in Education has the right to increase the quote if necessary.

Financial Assistance -Students eligible for Pupil Premium may receive funding of up to a maximum of £100 for this trip. The support of £100 will be available for the 2nd deposit in June. The school will consider other applications from families in need of financial support on a case-by-case basis. Our



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financial assistance form is available on our website. Please contact school for further information qmgf-financial-assistance@merciantrust.co.uk

Below is the provisional itinerary. This may slightly change as we approach the departure date:

Day 1: Arrival into Istanbul. Transfer to accommodation and free time to acclimatise and rest before dinner

Day 2: Tour of the old city; Sultanahmet: Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Basilica Cistern

Day 3: The Grand Bazaar, the Roman Hippodrome, visit one of the oldest Turkish delight shops in the city, panoramic city views from the 14th Century Venetian Galata Tower

Day 4: AM Cruise up the Bosphorus PM: choice- opportunity to pray in Blue Mosque or visits in Sultanahmet. Evening: Whirling Dervish performance

Day 5: Return to the UK

We appreciate that the cost of the trip is high but we have tried to minimise costs. The Trip does represent great value for money. **The trip is based on 24 students going and is open to all students in Years 9-12 on a rolling basis. This will go out on Parent Mail.**

If you would like to go please complete this Forms questionnaire by 18th April 2023.

<https://forms.office.com/e/zqdGeuGTzd>

Please be prepared to pay the deposit soon after. Deposit payments will open via Parent Mail soon after the sign-up deadline.

If more than 24 students sign up to the trip, names will be decided by ballot and a reserve list will be kept.

The payment plan is below.

End of April 2023: Deposit due £200

1st June: Second deposit £200

8th September 2023: third payment £400

1st March 2024: Final Payment £400

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

Yours sincerely

Mr Reynolds

Head of History

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Some of the sights we will visit:



The Whirling Dervish



The 1,500 year old Byzantine Hagia Sophia



15th Century Grand Bazaar:



Topkapi Palace: Home to the Ottoman Sultans

Bosphorus Cruise

BOSPHORUS BY BOAT a traditional excursion by boat along the waterway separating Europe and Asia. The shore is lined with old wooden villas, palaces of marble, fortresses, and small fishing villages. During the excursion you will see the magnificent sights of the following attractions from your boat. See Dolmabahce Palace, and further along, the parks and imperial pavilions of Yildiz Palace. On the coastal edge of this park, is Ciragan Palace, 300 meters of its marble facade faces the shore. At Ortakoy a great variety of artists gather to display their work along the street. Ortakoy is a symbol of tolerance with a church, a mosque and a synagogue existing side by side for centuries. RUMELI FORTRESS Built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 prior to the conquest of Constantinople. Bosphorus passage. BEYLERBEYI PALAS (PALACE) The summer residence of Ottoman sultans.