

Are you living on the edge yet . . .
or are you still taking up too much room?



*Ferris
Wheels*

Classic Motorcycle Safaris

Turkish Treasures Safari 2010



Turkish Treasures Motorcycle Safari



Destinations and Places of Interest:

1. Istanbul
2. Gallipoli
3. Cannakale & Troy
4. Kusadasi & Ephesus
5. Pammukale & Heirapolis
6. Fethiye
7. Kas
8. Antalya
9. Alanya
10. Silifke
11. Capadocia; Urgup, Goreme, and Kaymakli
12. Bogazkale
13. Sinop
14. Amasra
15. Safranbolu



Turkish Treasures Motorcycle Safari

Itinerary for April 2010

Day	Date	Details	Distance
1 S	Apr 10	Afternoon flight to Singapore then overnight to Dubai and Istanbul	
2 S	11	Arrive early, day sightseeing in Istanbul; collect motorbikes	
3 M	12	From Istanbul around the Marmara Sea to Gelibolu (Gallipoli)	300k
4 T	13	Visiting Gallipoli, then across the Dardanelles to Canakkale	95k
5 W	14	A visit to Troy, then south along the Aegean to Kusadasi	405k
6 T	15 *	½ day exploring the ruins of Ephesus, then back to Kusadasi	40k
7 F	16	To the calcium springs of Pamukkale & ruins of Heirapolis	205k
8 S	17	To the Mediterranean coast; first Fethiye then on to Kas	355k
9 S	18	Follow the sweeping Med coastline to Antalya	195k
10 M	19 *	Morning cruise to coastal waterfall; ½ rest day in Antalya	
11 T	20	Further east to Alanya then on to Silifke	430k
12 W	21	Inland to Urgup, in the surreal landscape of Capadocia	510k
13 T	22 *	Exploring Kaymakli (underground city), Goreme museum	25k
14 F	23	Exploring Zelve, Avanos, Nevsehir and surrounds	25k
15 S	24	From Urgup across the plateau to Bogazkale; ½ day explore	200k
16 S	25	From Bogazkale continue north to Sinop on the Black Sea coast	460k
17 M	26	Hugging the Black Sea coast all the way to Amasra	325k
18 T	27	To Safranbolu on the old Silk Road; ½ day exploring	90k
19 W	28	A long final riding day, via the coastal roads back to Istanbul	500k
20 T	29 *	Ferry cruise on the Bosphorus; markets and bazaars of Istanbul	-----
21 F	30	Tour concludes. 13:30 flight from Istanbul o'night to Singapore	4,160k

* indicates consecutive night in same hotel, allowing for laundry, etc.

Departure Date:

For the Turkish Treasures Motorcycle Safari 2010, your recommended departure date (from Australia) is **Saturday 10th April 2010** as shown above, transiting briefly in Singapore before an overnight flight to Istanbul arriving early the following morning. Departures from other locations may require the previous day's flight and an overnight stay in Singapore; please see our discussion on recommended flights herein.

Tour Operator

This Motorcycle Safari is one of several itineraries offered by **Ferris Wheels**, Australia's only professional tour operator specialising solely in international motorcycle adventures. Mike Ferris pioneered the Himalayan Motorcycle Safari concept in 1994 with his first crossing of the world's greatest mountain range by an Australian group of riders. In 1995, by now a qualified travel agent, he took his first commercial safari to the Khardung La in Ladakh (India), at 5,602 metres the highest road in the world. Mike and Denise Ferris now operate and personally lead annual **Ferris Wheels** motorcycle safaris to diverse destinations such as Rajasthan, the Indian Himalaya, Nepal, Bhutan, Turkey, Morocco, the Dalmatian coastline and the Andes, all of approximately three weeks in duration.

Be aware that this itinerary is a guide only and may need to change due to weather, road conditions or other factors. Please be flexible, but rest assured your Tour Leader will make final day-to-day decisions only after consultation with our agent in Istanbul, local authorities and group members.



Package Price

The Turkish Treasures tour price, excluding airfares and joining in Istanbul, is Aus\$8,500-00. Riders must have a valid and unrestricted rider's licence. Pillions are welcome and we also have a limited number of passenger seats available in our support vehicle, a 15-seater minibus – price for pillion or passenger is Aus\$7,500-00. Please note that our prices are subject to exchange rates and we reserve the right to alter any pricing, pursuant to Clause 9 of our Terms and Conditions, up to the date of final payment.

Price includes

- Full motorbike rental for the duration of the Safari (see '**Our Motorbikes**', below)
- Clean, friendly, mid-range accommodation throughout the Safari, nights 2 to 20 inclusive
- Twin-share basis; (single room supplement, additional Aus\$800)¹
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), including coffee or tea
- Experienced guide, local agent and qualified mechanics
- Minibus support vehicle and driver, for luggage transport and assistance
- Spare parts, tools, medicines and first aid equipment
- All fuel costs, maintenance, third party and comprehensive insurance for the bikes
- Airport transfers if arriving & departing via our preferred flights
- A complimentary *Ferris Wheels* long-sleeved Safari shirt

¹ Accommodation is provided on a twin-share basis and if you're on your own we'll do our best to bunk you in with an acceptable roommate. But if you're the last person to book, there's obviously a 50-50 chance you'll have to take a room on your own and therefore be liable for the single room supplement. So the moral of the story is, book early or bring your own roommate with you. Or preferably both!

Price excludes

- Airfares to/from Istanbul (approx. Aus\$1900 via Singapore Airlines)
- Travel insurance policy covering use of motorbike (approx Aus\$200 for 24 days)²
- Tourist visa for Turkey, US\$20 payable upon arrival in Istanbul (waived for some nationalities)
- Medical examination and vaccinations before departure (recommended)
- Expenses of a personal nature such as postage, laundry, souvenirs or alcoholic drinks
- Tips for support staff at completion; optional but always appreciated, Aus\$100 suggested³

² Please note that a motorcycle safari overseas must be considered one of life's more adventurous pursuits and therefore personal travel insurance is mandatory. If you already have existing travel insurance, we will insist on sighting a copy of the policy before you will be permitted to participate in this tour. Or if you prefer, we can arrange comprehensive travel insurance for you (Australian clients only) for approximately Aus\$200-00. **Be aware**, however, that any travel insurance ceases immediately on return to your own country, even if on-going medical treatment or surgery is required. Private health cover or government Medicare automatically resumes at that point.

³ A note on tips. We recognize tipping is not generally part of the antipodean psyche, but it is pretty much expected in most other parts of the world. Daily hotel porters will expect a small reward for carrying your bags to your room, and our mechanics, drivers and support staff anticipate reasonable tips to supplement their modest wages whilst on tour with us. We suggest something like Aus\$100 is affordable for your three weeks, but whatever funds are contributed by tour participants, we will match it dollar for dollar and the resultant pool of money will be distributed amongst our crew. If you've had a good time, we would encourage you to donate generously! If not, tell us why and we will contribute on your behalf.



International Flights

You will have to arrange your own airfares through your preferred travel agent, or Australian clients may wish to take advantage of an arrangement we have with our local agent, Press & James Travel Associates. Phone 02 9979 5235 or email natasha_dann@travel-associates.com.au and mention you're joining the ***Ferris Wheels 'Turkish Treasures' Tour***. They have a copy of this itinerary and they can arrange your route and flights as well as any stopovers or extensions you desire. We recommend you book at least six months ahead, and full payment will usually be required six weeks before your departure. Our preferred arrival flight, which we will meet for complimentary transfer to your hotel, is Singapore Airlines SQ490 leaving Singapore late in the evening on day 1 of this itinerary and arriving Istanbul at approximately 07:30 am the following morning. Our suggested return flight is SQ491 on day 21 of this itinerary.

Food & Health

Quality of food can obviously be a concern when visiting exotic foreign lands. We take care in selecting clean and reputable establishments for our meals and the local fare is not always as fiery and spicy as some people would have you believe. Our clients are often pleasantly surprised by the delicious meals available. Even so, an occasional upset stomach cannot always be avoided in remote areas, so we advise initial caution and we carry various medicines to ensure as much comfort as possible. Participants in any of our adventure activities are obviously expected to have a reasonably high level of health, fitness and capability, but **in all cases a consultation with your doctor is recommended** in order to identify necessary vaccinations and precautions, particularly if traveling overseas for the first time.

Climate & Clothing

Our itinerary is designed to take advantage of the pleasant weather of the northern spring, but before the hordes of European tourists start flocking to the beaches and resorts. It is also deliberately timed to **avoid** Anzac Day at Gallipoli, when enormous crowds and traffic congestion turn such a special visit into a farcical waste of time. Temperatures can range from rather cold in the hills to quite warm (high 20's) on the beaches, with little chance of rain. At times there will be little shade available, so sunscreen, sunglasses, hats and long sleeves will also be required. Jeans and our long-sleeved ***Ferris Wheels*** shirts tend to be the norm, with strong boots and riding gloves. Helmets, full or open-faced as you prefer, should be brought with you from home.

Professional quality riding gear such as Rivet's Cordura jackets, overpants and other protective clothing is an excellent investment and will go a long way to ensuring your comfort in what may sometimes be adverse conditions. The Rivet jackets are particularly versatile with a zip-in / zip-out padded liner for extra warmth and protection. But if you're susceptible to the cold, then probably a good set of thermal underwear would also come in handy. A couple of other products we've used for several years and are happy to endorse are the Kevlar-reinforced jeans and other clothing from Draggin Jeans in Melbourne (www.dragginjeans.com.au) and those Velcro alternative to hooked 'occy' straps from Andy Strapz (www.andystrapz.com).

And while we're giving plugs, we'd like to suggest you consider a Rider Improvement course, regardless of your experience or perceived ability on a motorcycle, to brush up on your skills prior to joining an international riding safari. Our recommendation here is the Australian Superbike School, which focuses on cornering techniques rather than all-out speed, despite the name (www.superbikeschool.com.au).



Our motorbikes

Our standard model bikes are the Suzuki V-Strom 650 and the Suzuki Bandit 600. These are well-mannered twin cylinder road bikes, fully-faired, powerful enough and quite comfortable with two on board for long distances. But we can also provide a range of alternative steeds such as BMW's R1150R, or perhaps Suzuki's VL800 Classic or 800 Drifter (both cruisers). For the more vertically challenged we may be able to provide low-slung cruisers like the Suzuki Savage 650 or Yamaha's Virago 535, or perhaps even the Suzuki Bergman 400 scooter. Some of the larger bikes will incur an additional premium; please see our **Booking Form** for full details.

We will attempt to provide you with the bike of your choice, but they may be allocated on a first-booked first-choice basis and we retain the right of assignment. Our bike provider is a commercial motorcycle dealership and their fleet changes frequently, so your preferred model might not always be available. All bikes are late model and in well-maintained condition. Fuel, insurance and maintenance are included in the package price.

Please note you will be required to sign a rental contract with our bike supplier in Istanbul, and leave a photocopy of your passport and a credit card imprint for US\$1,000 as a security deposit. Our package price includes comprehensive insurance but the policy carries a US\$1,000 excess; ie the rider is liable for the first US\$1,000 of any damage. If you drop the bike, any broken levers, mirrors, lights, etc will be payable by you.

Our riding policy

We will occasionally require riders to 'bunch up', particularly when navigating through large towns, but out on the open road we know that you will want a lot of freedom and time on your own (isn't that what riding is all about?) We allow plenty of time for people to set their own pace, and it's unlikely that you'll ever be pressed to keep up. We know of some motorbike tour operators who insist that everybody ride in formation every day and play 'follow the leader', but that's not our style at all. You'll be given maps and daily directions on how far we're going, the destination for the night (including hotel name and phone number), and where we are likely to stop for lunch, drink breaks, sightseeing and refueling along the way, etc. There is always plenty of time to take photos, chat to the locals, or just sit and soak it all in. Our Mercedes support mini-bus with our luggage will always be the last vehicle in the convoy, with our mechanic, spare parts and tools, etc. in case of bike problems.

But let's not pull any punches here. A tour such as this is potentially a dangerous undertaking; it's inherent in the very nature of the trip. You'll be on an unfamiliar bike, on unfamiliar roads in unfamiliar traffic conditions. It is important for you to recognize this and accept ultimate responsibility, firstly for joining and secondly for riding in a circumspect manner for the duration of the tour. Please read and acknowledge Paragraph 16 of our Terms and Conditions! (End of sermon)

Turkey trivia: The nation shares its border with eight other modern-day countries. How many can you name without taking a sneak look at our map on Page 2? The answer can be found later herein.



Detailed Daily Itinerary

Day 1 will mainly consist of flying, and involves the logistics of us getting everyone to Istanbul at more or less the same time from several different locations.

Day 2 sees us arriving early in the morning. We'll check into our hotel in the central Golden Horn region before heading out to explore this exciting and vibrant city. Istanbul was once the capital of the whole known world, and although it is no longer even the capital of Turkey, it retains an atmosphere and a 'presence' which is difficult to define but very tangible. It used to be referred to as the 'Paris of the East', and the famous Orient Express would ply between here and the other Paris to the west.

We shall visit Hagia Sophia, which for one thousand years was the greatest church in all of early Christendom, before being converted into an equally splendid mosque and now an impressive museum, and we'll visit Istanbul's most famous landmark, the Blue Mosque.

Day 3 The bikes are waiting at our hotel and we head out of Istanbul this morning in a westerly direction, along the northern shores of the Marmara Sea. The highway soon gives out to smaller roads as we make our way down to the Gallipoli peninsula. The narrow isthmus connecting the Marmara with the Aegean is called the Dardanelles and has been heavily fortified and defended for many centuries, as it allows strategic naval access firstly to Istanbul and thereafter to an ice-free port for the Russian states on the Black Sea. So crucial is the peninsula (known as Gelibolu in Turkey), that this is where the heaviest fighting was concentrated during the First World War, when the Anzacs and Allies tried but failed to gain vital territorial advantage due mainly to the strategic brilliance of General Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

Day 4 We spend the day examining the battlefields, tunnels and trenches of Anzac Cove and Shrapnel Valley, monuments such as Lone Pine (Australian Cemetery), Chunuk Bair (Kiwi Cemetery), and the excellent Anzac Museum. Particularly moving is a monument erected by Kemal Ataturk paying tribute to all the young sons who lost their lives on both sides of the conflict, magnanimously consoling mothers from distant lands that 'after having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.' At the end of the war, General Ataturk went on to become the Turkish Republic's new leader after his mighty revolution to overthrow the oppressive Ottoman regime. To this day he is quite rightly idolized and revered as the father of the nation.

In the afternoon we have a short pleasant ferry ride across the Dardanelles to our hotel in Canakkale; you probably won't even realize you've in fact just crossed from Europe into Asia Minor.

Day 5 We start by riding only 30k to explore the ruins of Troy, with its wooden horse. Ancient Troy actually went through at least nine incarnations as a city, the oldest having been dated as far back as 3000BC. The town then eventually disappeared in the 14th century, to be rediscovered in 1863 by one Frank Calvert. We then proceed south along the Aegean all day, sometimes venturing a little inland before plunging back down to the coastline. A few twisty bits, a few straight bits, and lots of good surface for riding. But watch out for the guys with the radar.

After lunch we endure the smear of Izmir, the 4th largest city in Turkey where the main industry appears to be massive self-perpetuating construction, before reaching the lovely port of Kusadasi, a popular resort town for all the cruise ships stopping here on the Aegean island-hop circuit.



Day 6 is a short day in terms of distance traveled. We visit the ruins of Efes, (or Ephesus), the grandest and best preserved classical city on the Mediterranean. St. Paul came here and wrote his epistles to the Ephesians, but long before then its Temple of Diana built by the Romans was one of the Seven Wonders of the World, and long before that it was the city of the Ionians. It's easy to spend half a day here and we'll lunch in nearby Selcuk, have a wander through the bazaars here, then return to our beachside hotel in Kusadasi for the night

Day 7 We turn away from the coast properly for the first time, heading some 200k's or so inland to the amazing spectacle of Pamukkale. Hot calcium-laden water bubbles out of a hilltop and cascades over the sides, forming towers of brilliant white travertine rock pools, resembling those pyramids of overflowing champagne glasses sometimes seen at weddings. It is a totally unique sight, unmatched anywhere else in the world. Nearby Heirapolis is another impressive ruined city, where chariot wheel-ruts can be seen on the marble streets.

The amphitheatre here is even more spectacular and in better condition than the better-known counterpart at Ephesus we visited yesterday.

Day 8 We cut across the Aegean hinterland in a south-easterly direction back to the coast, this time arriving at the Mediterranean Sea rather than the Aegean. We pass through many little villages and towns, and some rugged mountain valleys only a few kilometres from the coast. Fethiye is our destination for lunch, before we head another 120k or so along a spectacular, twisty Mediterranean coast highway to quiet little Kas for the night.

Day 9 has us following the coast to Antalya, the regional capital in a spectacular harbour-and-mountains setting, where it's fashionable to go snow skiing in the morning and then scuba diving in the afternoon. St. Tropez and St. Moritz rolled into one. We'll be there by lunchtime and can spend the afternoon exploring the old harbour where our hotel is built into the fortress walls, and we'll probably also inundate the local launderette with all manner of grimy biker gear.....

Day 10 is a well-earned rest day, and Antalya and its environs are worthy of some detailed exploration. We take a short cruise along the coast to witness the remarkable sight of a substantial waterfall gushing directly into the Mediterranean Sea. We can take a dip, or sunbathe on the deck of our charter yacht as the crew prepares our lunch.

Back in port, Kaleici, the old part of town where we are staying, is particularly interesting with its combination of beautifully restored Ottoman houses and the Roman harbour, complete with the monumental marble arch of Hadrian's Gate in honour of the Roman emperor who visited here a little before our time, in 130AD.

Day 11 sees us flanking the Mediterranean to Anamur, where a stunning crusader castle dominates the southernmost point of Turkey's coastline. We hug the coast along a beautiful sweeping highway conjuring up images of James Bond coming the other way at a reckless speed in an Aston Martin. The fine sandy beaches here are a double-edged sword for this part of Turkey; the resort town of Alanya, which we pass through this morning, has 'benefited' heavily from the tourist boom recently and now resembles Miami.

We continue east along the Med, with the road occasionally winding up into the hills before sweeping back down to the coast. But we'll have to keep an eye out for very enthusiastic traffic police on this stretch of the road with their radar traps, we're warning you now! Tonight we head to Silifke, where our hotel faces another spectacular castle built on a small island just offshore, floodlit at night.



Day 12 sees us heading inland again, into the surrealistic landscapes of Capadocia. It is simply not possible to adequately describe the ‘fairy chimney’ topography of this area. Great boulders of hard granite perch precariously atop columns of softer, eroded sandstone called *tufa*, resembling the Warner Bros playground of Wile E. Coyote and the Roadrunner. It is another unique geographical phenomenon, unreplicated anywhere else in the world.

Day 13 is a day exploring the wonders around us. As well as the spectacular formations above the surface, there are some amazing surprises to be found under foot. The subterranean cities of Derinkuyu and Kaymakli have been dated as 4,000 years old. Twelve storeys deep, with churches, schools, stables, communal kitchens, ventilation shafts and deep wells, these troglodyte dwellings are a marvel of early engineering. In peaceful times it is believed the residents used to live and farm above ground, but when threatened by invading armies they would retreat below the surface, complete with their animals and supplies, leaving a deserted town and only a few holes in the surface of the ground which were unlikely to be discovered or investigated.

Day 14 is another stayover day, allowing us to explore the region’s towns and valleys. Somewhat surprisingly perhaps, Capadocia was an early stronghold of Christianity, with St. Paul making long pilgrimages through this part of Anatolia (he was born here in Tarsus, near Adana). Ancient churches are plentiful, carved into the soft rock in the same way as many of the old houses here. Development of real estate was cheap and efficient; find a hillside and carve your house into it – being careful not to inadvertently chisel through into your neighbour’s living room. We’ll visit some of the small towns and hamlets of the area.

Day 15 Time to move on. We head north across the vast Anatolian plains where evidence has been found of the very earliest human communities, dating back to 7,500BC. Many civilisations have risen and fallen here on this strategic ‘land bridge’ between Asia and Europe and the area continues to flourish, with huge agricultural belts providing many and varied crops. Our destination for tonight is Bogazkale (with a silent ‘g’), where we visit some spectacular ruins where once stood the capital of the ancient Hittite empire.

Day 16 takes us across the northern alluvial plains to Sinop on the southern shores of the Black Sea, which is quite a remarkable body of water. Recent research has proven that the Black Sea was a freshwater lake until about 7,500 years ago, when the great melt following the last ice age raised the level of the Mediterranean Sea. The entire length of the Bosphorus Valley was breached, and salt water flooded for months ‘with the force of 200 Niagaras’ according to Harvard University, into the Black Sea which was previously some 500ft lower.

After the sea levels gained equilibrium, the denser salt water filled the bottom of the basin, leaving a layer of lighter, brackish water on the surface. Since it lacks the circulatory currents of the oceans, oxygen never penetrated to the lower levels. Deadly hydrogen sulfide formed, and life suffocated. The depths of the Black Sea are poisonous.

Day 17 Today we present to you one of the world’s best-kept secrets; the coastline along the Black Sea forests. 300km of twisty, winding roads, wonderfully lush and verdant forests, with dairy farming and rich crops of cherries, hazelnuts, tobacco and others in evidence. The waters of the Black Sea are much cooler than the Aegean and the Med, so tourism is not as developed and quaint little fishing villages (the upper levels of the sea teem with life!) tend to dot the coastline rather than ritzy resorts.

We reach Amasra late in the afternoon, a quiet little town with a splendid Genoese fortress defending the beautiful harbour.



Day 18 takes us inland a little through the hills on a winding little road to a gorgeous little Ottoman town called Safranbolu, which translates literally as ‘big saffron’. Saffron is indeed big here, having been grown for centuries as a primary source of trading revenue way back when this part of the world was on the Old Silk Route. Safranbolu is now also famous for its Turkish Delight, and we’ll spend half a day exploring the town’s delights and charms before retiring to our boutique Ottoman-style hotel.

Day 19 and we’re winding down the clock. We complete our circumnavigation of central/western Turkey by bumping along through little coastal towns, returning to Istanbul via the smaller roads. We relinquish our trusty steeds to their rightful owner this evening, having covered a little over 4,000km in the past three weeks including a trifecta of coastlines.

Day 20 gives us a chance to explore Istanbul a bit more, with a ferry cruise up the Bosphorus followed by perhaps a shopping expedition to the huge, covered Grand Bazaar for those mandatory last-minute souvenirs and T-shirts for the family back home. Then we’ll gather for a final farewell dinner in a nice restaurant somewhere downtown tonight.

Day 21 That’s all folks! You’re outa here shortly after noon, with a thousand photographs and quite a few tales to tell over your next dinner party. Swap addresses with your fellow riders so we can all keep in touch and trade a few photos next time we all catch up at a Phillip Island race meeting or some such.

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Further detailed trip notes, including a list of essential clothing and equipment to take, health considerations, visa formalities, etc, will be sent upon receipt of a completed Booking Form and deposit. Please feel free to contact our office any time for further information on **(02) 9970 6370** or email safari@ferriswheels.com.au.

Trivia answer: Turkey’s eight neighbouring countries, clockwise from the top, are Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Greece and Bulgaria. How did you do?