

Five and a half years ago, I was fortunate enough to go with my school group to France and Spain for two weeks. That experience definitively turned me on the path that I have taken. By seeing the museums, the buildings where history took place, by walking on the same roads where people had walked for centuries, I became drawn to the study of and appreciation of cultures outside of my own. I now understand history as something that not only affected past people, but also as something that created the world, cultures, and political issues that affect our world today. That trip was a defining moment in what guided me to major in Anthropology and History and focus on working in museums in order to preserve the past for future generations. Now, as I am about to make another major life change as I graduate, I look towards Turkey to create another life-defining moment, another moment that will reaffirm the path I have set myself on, another moment to step back in history.

For as long as I can remember, I have been drawn to Turkey. As cliché as the saying is, it really is where East meets West; yet, it is also so much more than that. It has been occupied by the Greek, Romans, Hittites, and Arabs, and has been an epicenter of learning, religion, culture, political power, and awe-inspiring architecture for centuries. To me Turkey represents a melting pot of cultures and overlapping histories. Turkey is Western enough for me to feel comfortable going as my first trip alone, but unique and different enough to be exhilaratingly different and unique. The Globetrotter Grant would get

me off the continent, and to a place I have dreamed about seeing for years.

My biggest regret for my time at Texas A&M University has been that I have not had the financial capability, nor time, to study abroad. When I made the decision to graduate in three years, I knew that studying abroad was not in the cards; although I have enjoyed every moment I have had at A&M, choosing to graduate early rather than stay and study abroad is a small mark of disappointment and regret that I thought I would forever hold. However, with the possibility of receiving the Globetrotter Grant, I became excited once more that I could have the funds to have another opportunity to travel for an extended amount of time before starting my job in Houston.

I have tried to plan my trip mostly around seeing historical and archaeological sites and museums, but also to try to leave enough time to just wonder around in cities and experience Turkey as a modern day country.

To me travel is just as much about the physical journey as it is the personal. Very few things transcend all cultures beyond covering the basic necessities for food, shelter, and water, yet curiosity of other places and cultures seems to transcend all boundaries. If there was one thing that I learned from my time in Western Europe, it was that everyone stares up in awe at beautiful cathedrals and mosaics. By staying in hostels, I hope to meet people from across the globe to share sites and experiences.

I plan to start my travels right after graduation. Airfare prices to Istanbul from

Dallas before May 20th are about \$300 cheaper than anything after that day. I will depart from Dallas and fly to Istanbul where I will begin my trip.

The main form of transportation within Turkey is busing, which I will be using extensively. Buses are typically available for each of my chosen locations multiple times a day, some as often as fifteen minutes apart. The hostels typically serve breakfast, and for my other meals, I plan to eat food from local street vendors and restaurants that serve traditional Turkish foods such as kebabs, doner, and manti (dumplings).

Approximate Itinerary

Day one I will arrive in Istanbul from DFW airport in Dallas.

Days two and three I will see the main sites of Istanbul including: Haya Sophia, Blue Mosque, Basilica Cistern, Topkapi Palace, Grand Bazar, Egyptian Bazar, Istanbul Archaeological Museum, and more. Most of these are located next to each other in Sultanahmet, and are located only a block or two from most hostels

Day four I will spend the day traveling to Ephesus (8.5 hours) by ferry and bus.

Day five I will visit the Ephesus sites including ancient ruins of the city: the Celsus Library, Temple of Hadrian, Trojan Fountain, St. Paul's Theater, Temple of Artemis (one of the Seven Wonders of the World) which are all located in one location. If there is time in the afternoon, I will take a bus to the House of Mother Mary nearby.

On day six I plan to travel to Pamukkale (3.25 hrs) and see the ruins of Hierapolis, swim with the Roman ruins of the Temple of Apollo in the Sacred Pool, and see the mineral deposits of the calcium travertines.



Figure 1: Calcium Travertines in Pamukkale

On day seven I will spend the morning traveling to Antalya (3.5 hours). The afternoon will be spent visiting the archaeology museum and strolling in Old Antalya, which dates back to the Ottoman Empire. In the evening I will watch the sun set at Konyaalti Beach.

Day eight will consist of a daytrip to Side by bus (1.5 hours each way). I will see the best-preserved Roman theater in Turkey, Aspendos, and the Temple of Apollo and Athena where Anthony and Cleopatra supposedly saw each other regularly.

Day nine I will spend traveling to Konya (4.25 hours) and take the afternoon to explore the city.

Day ten I will continue to explore Konya, a city with roots back to the Hittites. Places of interest include the Tomb of Rumi and a caravanserai built along the Silk Road. In

Figure 2: Cave Dwellings in Goreme



In addition, I will try to see whirling dervishes while here if I was unable to in Istanbul.

On day eleven I will travel to Goreme (5.5 hours) Spend the afternoon exploring the fairy chimneys, cave dwellings, Goreme Outdoor Museum, and hiking to the Rose Valley.

Days twelve and thirteen I will spend continuing to exploring Goreme. If budget allows, one of the common ways to do this is to take a hot air balloon ride across the geological features as the sun rises. In the afternoon of day thirteen I will fly to Istanbul to spend the night there.

Day fourteen I will take one last day seeing any sites not seen in Istanbul and general exploration of the city.

Day fifteen I will sadly leave Turkey and fly back to Dallas.



Budget

Passport Renewal	\$110
Visa	\$20
Flight	\$850
In Country Transportation (Bus/Taxis)	\$350
Food (\$15/Day)	\$225
Hostels (\$20/Night)	\$280
Sightseeing (\$20/Day)	\$260
Tips/Incidentals/Souvenirs	\$200
Total:	\$2295

Total Cost:	\$2295
Personal Savings:	\$700
Left to be Raised:	\$1595

Note: If more funds become available, I will extend my trip as long as possible. I have to save enough money to be able to pay for a down payment for an apartment in Houston, but if it less than budgeted then I can put more money towards the trip. First on my list to add would be Bordrum, which has a Nautical Archaeology Museum, run by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, which is centered at Texas A&M. This museum houses the Uluburun Ship, the first ship to ever be excavated underwater, which I have studied extensively in my classes and would love the opportunity to see it. Another place that would be possible to add would be Troy.

Additional Note: The one in-country flight from Cappadocia/Goreme to Istanbul may turn into an overnight bus trip depending upon having a place to leave my luggage during the day in Istanbul. Busing is significantly cheaper and if I can find a hostel that allows to early luggage drop off I will use that money for a hot air balloon ride across Goreme. This is something I will research further if awarded the grant.