Enchanting Istanbul is famous for being the crossroads of the East and West and is distinguished by its centuries of history focused on learning and culture. Discover its ancient Byzantine and Ottoman influences while wandering labyrinths of colorful alleys and exploring its medieval Grand Bazaar. Stay in the heart of the city for seven nights and join husband-and-wife team, Professor Ali Yaycioğlu and Dr. Patricia Blessing, as we visit the Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome and Topkapi Palace. Take a private cruise on the Bosphorus and marvel at the stunning mosques and homes that line its shores. Istanbul’s warm hospitality and spectacular, age-old sites make this a truly unforgettable trip.

ALI YAYCIOĞLU, assistant professor of Middle East history in Stanford’s history department, was born and grew up in Ankara, Turkey, where he completed his BS in international relations at Middle East Technical University. He studied Ottoman history at Bilkent University in Ankara and Islamic history at McGill University in Montreal and completed his PhD in history and Middle Eastern studies at Harvard, with a dissertation entitled “Provincial Challenge: Regionalism, Crisis, and Integration in the late Ottoman Empire, 1792–1812.” Before arriving at Stanford, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the Program of Hellenic Studies at Princeton, and an assistant professor of history at Eastern Illinois and Fairfield universities. During our program, Professor Yaycioğlu will lecture on the history of Istanbul, the Ottoman Empire and Islam in Turkey.
PATRICIA BLESSING, who works at the Humanities Center and teaches courses on Islamic art and architecture at Stanford, received her PhD in art and archaeology from Princeton University in 2012. Her dissertation, “Reframing the Lands on Rûm—Architecture and Style in Eastern Anatolia (1240–1320 C.E.),” investigates the relationship among patronage, architecture and style in the context of trans-imperial networks stretching all the way from Anatolia to Central Asia. Dr. Blessing has worked on archaeological excavations in Syria, Uzbekistan and Turkey. She completed her undergraduate work in Near Eastern studies, art history and comparative literature in Geneva and Bamberg. During our program, Dr. Blessing will lecture on Byzantine and Ottoman art and architecture.

ITINERARY

Tuesday & Wednesday, June 17 & 18
U.S. / ISTANBUL, TURKEY
Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival on Wednesday, transfer to the hotel to meet fellow travelers. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at a local restaurant. ERESIN CROWN HOTEL (D)

Thursday, June 19
ISTANBUL
Start the morning at the Topkapi Palace, former fortress and home of the Ottoman sultans. Highlights include the treasury, wardrobe, holy relics and decorated apartments of the harem. Continue on to the Süleymaniye Mosque, masterpiece of the 16th-century architect, Sinan. A prominent landmark on the skyline of Istanbul’s old city, the mosque is but a small part of the vast complex designed for the sultan whose name it bears. After lunch at a local restaurant attend an orientation, then spend the remainder of the day poking around the shops at Istanbul’s famed Grand Bazaar and exploring the city independently. ERESIN CROWN HOTEL (B,L)

Friday, June 20
ISTANBUL
This morning we visit Istanbul’s Hippodrome; the Blue Mosque, named for its glorious 17th-century blue Iznik tiles; and the Hagia Sophia, with its impressive domed basilica and Byzantine mosaics. Also, explore the Yerebatan Sarayı, otherwise known as the “Sunken Palace” or Basilica Cistern before lunch at a local restaurant. Next take a tour of the Mosaic Museum, which was built on the northern side of the Great Palace of the Byzantine Empire and displays mosaics that used to decorate the pavement. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. ERESIN CROWN HOTEL (B,L)

Saturday, June 21
ISTANBUL
This morning drive to the Sultan Selim Mosque, located on top of the fifth hill of Istanbul overlooking the Golden Horn. The mosque is the second-oldest imperial mosque in Istanbul and was commissioned by the Ottoman sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, in memory of his father, Selim I. Then stop at the small, yet lavishly decorated, St. Saviour in Chora Church to view its many frescoes and mosaics, which tell the story of the beginning of Christianity. Enjoy a lunch of fine Ottoman cuisine at a local restaurant followed by an afternoon lecture. ERESIN CROWN HOTEL (B,L)
Sunday, June 22

ISTANBUL
This morning stop at the Bosphorus suspension bridge for a photo opportunity before viewing the Beylerbeyi Palace, an Imperial Ottoman summer residence built in the 1860s. Enjoy lunch at Del Mare Restaurant and continue to Istanbul Modern. This museum, located on the shores of the Bosphorus, is Istanbul's first private museum to organize and hold modern and contemporary art exhibitions. Today we also visit the studio of sculptor Sevgi Karay before enjoying the afternoon at leisure. ERESIN CROWN HOTEL (B,L)

Monday, June 23

ISTANBUL
Today we drive to Eyup Sultan Mosque, situated on the European side of Istanbul near the Golden Horn and outside the walls of Constantinople. The mosque is at the center of a shrine complex that remains an important site for Muslims to visit on wedding days and during other celebrations. This afternoon enjoy a walking tour of Istiklal Street, the most famous avenue in Istanbul. This 1.8-mile-long pedestrian avenue is the heart of the entertainment and shopping district of Beyoglu, which dead-ends at Taksim Square. Enjoy an independent lunch and the afternoon at leisure. ERESIN CROWN HOTEL (B)

Tuesday, June 24

ISTANBUL
This morning venture into Istanbul’s famous Spice Market and practice negotiating skills or just enjoy the sounds and smells before heading out on a private cruise on the Bosphorus to visit an Ottoman yali, or private waterside home. Our host tells us the story of his family, which has lived there since the family’s ancestor, Hekimbasi Salih Efendi Yali, head physician for three 19th-century sultans, built his rose-colored mansion on a shore of the Bosphorus. This evening attend a festive farewell reception and dinner to celebrate the end of our glorious week in Istanbul. ERESIN CROWN HOTEL (B,D)

Wednesday, June 25

ISTANBUL / U.S.
Depart Istanbul early this morning on independent flights back to the U.S. (B)

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program. Half- to full days of touring are balanced with plenty of free time to explore Istanbul on our own. Daily programs involve one to three miles of walking in museums and on city tours and may involve extended periods of standing. Participants will encounter uneven terrain, including some dirt and cobblestone paths, and must be able to walk up and down hills. In some instances where stairs are a part of the tour, elevators may be unavailable. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
INFORMATION

DATES
June 17 to 25, 2014 (9 days)

SIZE
This program is limited to 35 participants

COST*
$4,495 per person, double occupancy
$5,695 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person

INCLUDED
• 7 nights of hotel accommodations at the Eresin Crown Hotel in Istanbul
• 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 2 dinners
• Welcome and farewell receptions
• Bottled water on excursions
• Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities
• All tours as described in the itinerary
• Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
• Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
• Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
• Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
• International and U.S. domestic airfare
• Passport and visa fees
• Immunization costs
• Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
• Independent and private transfers
• Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
• Excess-baggage charges
• Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Turkish Airlines from San Francisco to Istanbul is approximately $1,000 as of November 2013 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip/istanbul2014. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

INSURANCE
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. We strongly encourage that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you postmark your insurance payment within a specified window: 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter for the Waiver of Pre-existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency; 21 days for the Cancel for Any Reason benefit.

ELIGIBILITY
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the member’s price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

RESPONSIBILITY
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in October 2013 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

Stanford Travel/Study • Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center • 326 Galvez Street • Stanford, CA 94305
(650) 725-1093 • travelstudy@stanfordalumni.org • alumni.stanford.edu/goto/travelstudy
Focus on Istanbul  
JUNE 17 TO 25, 2014

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ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE  WORK PHONE  CELL PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

SIGNATURE

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:  
☐ I wish to have single accommodations.  
or ☐ I plan to share accommodations with ________________________________
or ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Here is my deposit of $ ________ ($1,000 per person) for _____ place(s).

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to “Stanford Alumni Association”).  
or ☐ Charge my deposit to my ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express

CARD #  EXPIRATION DATE

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE  DATE

Mail completed form to Stanford Travel/Study, 326 Galvez Street, Stanford, CA 94305-6105  
or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?istanbul2014.  
Please submit your payment only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.