

**Tour De Istanbul, London and Amesbury**  
**31<sup>st</sup> October -9<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Day 1 (31<sup>st</sup> December 2010): Durham to Luton Airport.**

**Luton Airport Parking:** Airpark Services, LU1 4BZ Grove Road, Slip End, Luton, Beds

**Day 2 (1<sup>st</sup> November 2010): Sabiha Airport to Istanbul Apartments**

Route 1: From Sabiha Gokchen, take bus E10 to Kardikoy (end of the station). 3.5 lira each. From Kardikoy, take ferry to Eminonu (end of the station, actually end to end). 1.75 lira each. From Eminonu, take Tram to Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Station). They use Token (jeton) and price is 1.75 lira per person. Then from Blue Mosque station, just walk to Istanbul Apartment.

Route 2: Sabiha Gokchen direct to Taksim. 13 lira per person. Then from Taksim to Metro underground to Kabatas. 1.75 lira each. From Kabatas, take Tram to Sultan Ahmet (Blue Mosque station), Another 1.75 lira each.

**Day 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010): Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Byzantine Hippodrome, Beyazit Mosque, Istanbul University and Al Fatih Mosque.**

**Hagia Sophia:** The Church of Holy Wisdom, undoubtedly one of the greatest architectural creations in the world used as a mosque during Ottomans and serving as a museum today.  
**\*Hagia Sophia is closed on Mondays and replaced with Underground Cistern**

**Byzantine Hippodrome:** the center for entertainment, amusement and sports in the city during the Roman and Byzantine Empires. The Egyptian Obelisk, the serpentine column and the German fountain of Willhelm II are sites to be visited.

**Blue Mosque :** The Sultan Ahmed Mosque ,one of the most revered masterpieces of the Islamic world . Famous with its blue ceramic tiles and six minarets.

**Beyazit Mosque:** Its main dome is 16.78 meters in diameter and is supported by four pillars. An oddity is that one of the minarets is 79 meters from the other and is contiguous with the hospital. The stone and wood craftsmanship and stained glass are artistic masterpieces. The courtyard paving materials and pillars used for the reservoir for ablutions were reclaimed from Byzantine ruins and re-used. These pillars in particular demonstrate the quality of Byzantine workmanship.

**Sultan Muhammad Al Fatih Mosque:** Built over the ruins of the Church of Apostles, Fatih Mosque was constructed between 1463 and 1470 and bears the name of the Ottoman conquerer of Istanbul, Fatih Sultan Mehmet. The mosque is the site of his mausoleum. Its vast size and its great complex of religious buildings, including medreses (theological school), hospices, baths, a hospital and a library, make it well worth a visit.

**Istanbul University:** The oldest and best-established university of Turkey, has a history that dates back 550 years. Its foundations were established in 1453, when the Sultan, Mehmet the Conqueror, entered Istanbul, and thus the University ranks among the first 10 founded in Europe.

**Day 4 (3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010): Topkapi Palace, Süleymani Mosque and Ayub Al Ansari Mosque and Miniaturk.**

**Topkapi Palace:** The former imperial residence of Ottoman Sultans , the oldest and the largest remaining palaces in the world. Today , used as a museum to exhibit works of art and many priceless artifacts. **\*Topkapi Palace is closed on Tuesdays and replaced with Underground Cistern**

**Süleymaniye Mosque:** A beauty outstanding even among all these domes and minarets that define the skyline of Istanbul was built by Sultan Suleyman "The Magnificent" in the 16th century.

**Ayub Al Ansari Mosque:** The tomb of Abu Ayyub al-Ansari. The first mosque built after the conquest of Istanbul, the great Mosque of Eyüp lies outside the city walls in Eyüp district, near the Golden Horn, at the supposed place where Eyüp (Eyyub el Ensari), the standard bearer of the Prophet Muhammed, died in the Islamic assault on Constantinople (Istanbul) in 670.

**Miniaturk:** Istanbul version of miniland. The park contains 105 models done in 1/25th scale. 45 of the structures are from Istanbul, 45 are from Anatolia, and 15 are from the Ottoman territories that today lie outside of Turkey. Also featured are historic structures like the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus and the Mausoleum of Mausollos at Halicarnassus (now Bodrum). Additional space was reserved for potential future models.

**Karakoy:** The tombs of 3 Prophet companions at Yelmani Mosque. Karakoy Baklava, the most famous Baklava in Istanbul

**Day 5 (4<sup>th</sup> November 2010): Grand Bazaar and Bosphorus on Boat**

**Grand Bazaar :** The oldest and the largest covered market place in the world with more than 3000 shops owing rich collection of handmade carpets, jewellery, leather and souvenirs.

**City Walls:** The first breach of the walls was by the FOURTH CRUSADE in 1204, the second by the cannons and troops of SULTAN MEHMET THE CONQUEROR in 1453.

**Bosphorus On 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. Rumeli Fortress (From the sea): The biggest castle of Istanbul can be seen clearly during our Bosphorus Cruise.

**Day 6 (5<sup>th</sup> November 2010): Spice Bazaar, Dolmabahce Palace and Mosque**

**Spice Bazaar:** The air here is filled with the enticing aromas of cinnamon, caraway, saffron, mint, thyme and every other conceivable herb and spice.

**Dolmabahce mosque:** Construction of the mosque began at the behest of Sultan Abdülmecid's mother, Bezmialem Valide Sultan, but when she died, Sultan Abdülmecid took over. It was completed in 1855, and the architect was Karabet Balyan. It is one of the highly decorated Baroque-style mosques.

**Dolmabahce Palace:** Built in 19<sup>th</sup> century is one of the most glamorous palaces in the world. It was the administrative center of the late Ottoman Empire with the last of Ottoman Sultans was residing there.

**Day 7 (6<sup>th</sup> November 2010): Sabiha Airport to Luton**

From Istanbul Apartment walk to Sultan Ahmet station. From there to Eminou and then take ferry to Kardikov. From Kardikov take bus E10 to Sabiha. (6.5 lira per person).

**Luton Travelodge:** Travelodge Toddington M1 Southbound Hotel: Moto Service Area, M1 Motorway, Toddington, Bedfordshire, LU5 6HR. **Tel:** 08719 846214

**Day 8 (7<sup>th</sup> November 2010) : Luton to Legoland, Windsor**

Legoland, Windsor: Winkfield Road, Windsor SL4 4AY, United Kingdom

**Travelodge Wembley Hotel:** North Circular Road, Ealing, London, NW10 7UG. **Tel:** 0871 984 6466

**Day 9 (8<sup>th</sup> November 2010) : Wembley to London**

**Hanger Lane Tube:** Hanger Lane Tube, **Hanger Lane,** W5 1DL

**Malaysian High Commission:** 45 Belgrave Square, Westminster, London, SW1X8QT-02072358033. Hyde Park Corner.

**Day 10 (9<sup>th</sup> November 2010): London to Stonehenge to Durham**

**Travelodge Amesbury Stonehenge Hotel:** A303 Eastbound, Countess Services, Amesbury Wiltshire, SP4 7AS. **Tel:** 0871 984 6218\*

**Stonehenge:** SP4 7DE and **Avebury:** SN8 1RF