



TRAVEL LICENSE NO.

11/09333



EASTERN ANATOLIA

**THE 11,000 YEARS OLD SETTLEMENT
& THE MESOPOTAMIA TRADE ROUTE**





11 DAYS 9 NIGHTS ITINERARY (SEP-OCT 2024)

Eastern Anatolia was renamed by the newly founded Turkish Republic in 1920 instead of many ancient name in different period of times. It was recently a large area of Armenian mother land, exactly. This land can be date back to 11,000 years ago as the first settlements in a large area on this plateau as many excavation sites have been carrying on. This is the land that the Hittites, Phrygians, Galates, Romans, Byzantines, Seldjuks and Ottomans fought each in turn to establish their domination. We are now going back to see and indulge with their stories on our special trip to eastern Anatolia start from this September 2024.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 : BANGKOK - ISTANBUL - GAZIANTEP

Eastern Anatolia was renamed by the newly founded Turkish Republic in 1920 instead of many ancient name in different period of times. It was recently a large area of Armenian mother land, exactly. This land can be date back to 11,000 years ago as the first settlements in a large area on this plateau as many excavation sites have been carrying on. This is the land that the Hittites, Phrygians, Galates, Romans, Byzantines, Seldjuks and Ottomans fought each in turn to establish their domination. We are now going back to see and indulge with their stories on our special trip to eastern Anatolia start from this September 2024.



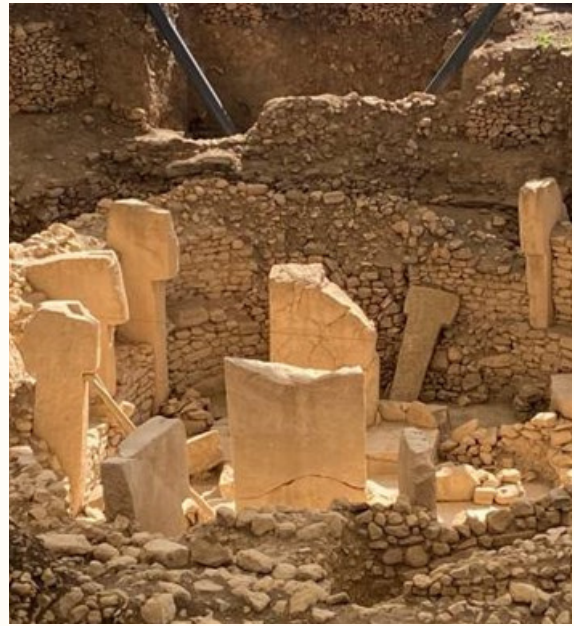
DAY 2 : GAZIANTEP - MT. NEMRUT - ADIYAMAN

Take a day trip to Mount Nemrut, **A UNESCO World Heritage Site** since 2014. See the colossal statues of the ancient Armenian gods. It is assumed that King Antiochus I of Commagene built his tomb and the huge statues of himself here. The view from this mountain is also spectacular you cannot miss it. Take the road down to Adiyaman for overnight.



DAY 3 : ADIYAMAN - SANLIURFA - HARRAN - MARDIN

After breakfast and relax with the lake view nearby the hotel, drive down south to the city of Sanliurfa or Urfa, a city steeped in religious history. Visit the birthplace of Abraham and the Pool of Abraham where he said to have been thrown into a fiery furnace. Continue to visit the ancient city of Harran which is 70 km south of Sanliurfa



Explore the beehive houses, an ancient settlement house date back to Assyrian Empire. These are the very unique houses that you never seen in anywhere. Proceed to the city of Mardin, about 193 km east of Sanliurfa.

This beautiful city is situated on the hillside and you must see the old town area with the old houses, old mosques and the old Citadel of Mardin. You will enjoy the stunning views of the Mesopotamia plains down-south. Overnight in Mardin.



DAY 4 : MARDIN - OMERLI - MIDYAT - BATMAN

North-east of Mardin about 26 km is a very old settlement name Omerli or Ma Sarta means "wine-press" in the previous time. It was conquered by Ashurnasirpal II, the Assyrian King in 879 B.C. and since then became the ancient city on the trade route of Assyrian Empire. It was an ancient community of Christian but the

people mostly convert to be a Muslim in the present time. You can see some very old Christian Church such as St. Hirmiz Chaldean Church (built in 397 A.D.),

the Deyrulzafaran Monastery (built in 493 A.D.) and also the Muslim Madrassah, Zinciriye (built in 1385 A.D.) as well.



Continue to the ancient city of Midyat, which is 43 km east of Omerli. This city was mentioned on the Assyrian Tablets since 9 century B.C. as Matiate. The Assyrian King, Assurnasirpal II and his army was marched and

stayed here for 2 nights during the campaign to this area in 879 B.C. That's mean this city was one of the important cities in upper Mesopotamia.



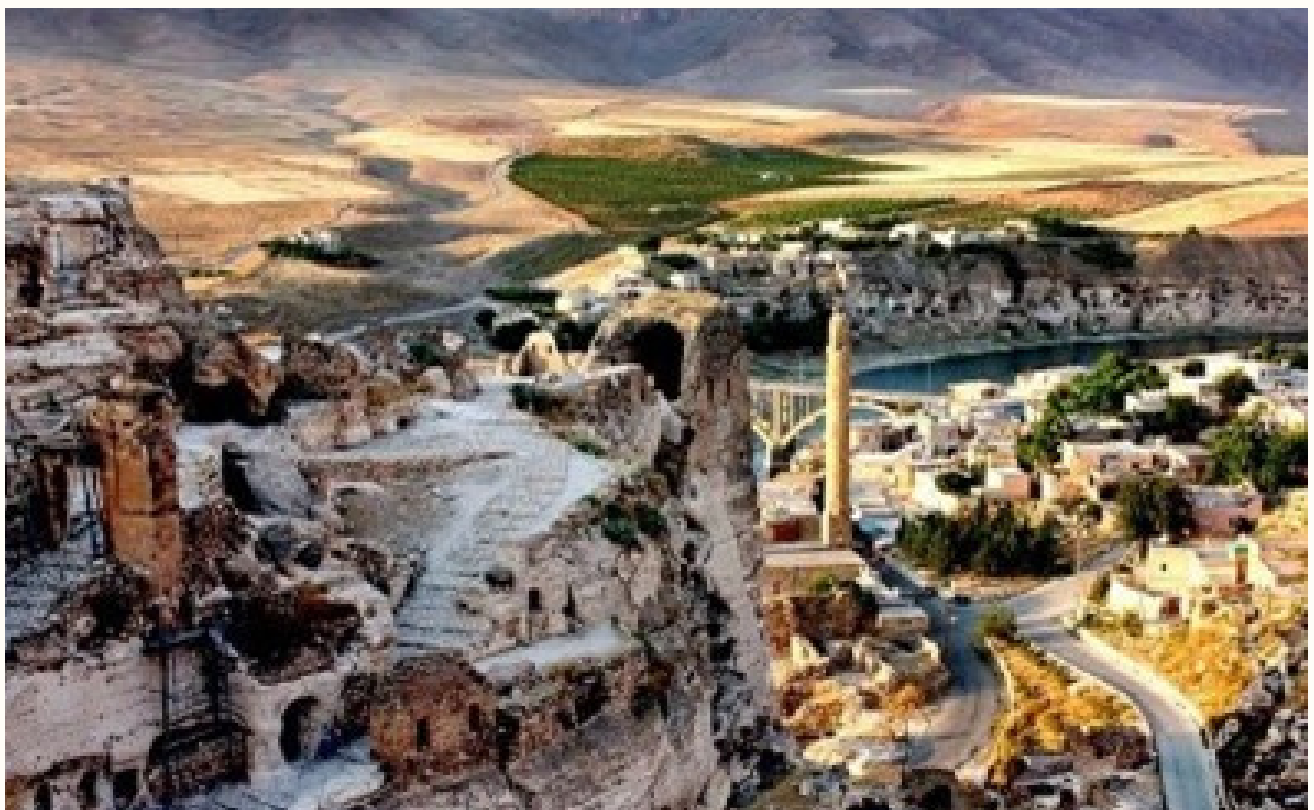
The trading here was very flourished that made the city's Architectural civilized and prosperous that anyone can admire in nowadays. Midyat now is a charming town with a large Syriac Christian population.

Visit the Church of Mor Gabriel, one of the oldest monastery in the world. Wander through the narrow streets of old town is a must. We are finally straight to Batman city for dinner and overnight.



DAY 5 : BATMAN - HASANKEYF - SIIRT - TATVAN

We start the tours today by driving south about 45 km of Batman to Hasankeyf, located along the Tigris River. The name Hasankeyf was derive from The Syriac word "Kefa or Kifo" meaning "The Rock". It was mentioned on the Akkadian Tablets as Ilansura during 1800-1750 B.C.



You will see the Old Tigris Bridge, the Citadel and the Great Palace and the Ulu Mosque. After a visiting of Hasankeyf and lunch, we straight to Tatvan, a nice city on the shore of Lake Van. On the way, we stop off at a very ancient town of Siirt. Take a walk in the old Bazar with the Grand Mosque then continue to Tatvan for dinner and overnight (Hotel with the lake view).



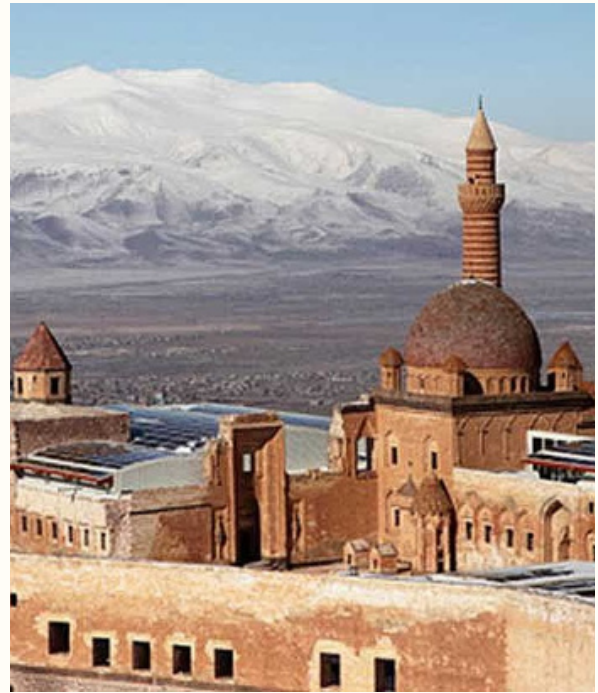
DAY 6 : TATVAN - LAKE VAN SCINIC BOAT - VAN CITY

Breakfast at the hotel, enjoy the moment and indulge in the beautiful Lake view. Transfer to the boat pier and take a lake cruise to Akdamar Island, a small Island in Lake Van and visit the beautiful Holy Cross Church, an Armenian Church since 10th century. Continue to visit the old town of Van City with its narrow streets and traditional Ottoman houses. Visit the Van Fortress, a massive Citadel dates back to the Urartian Kingdom. Overnight in Van City on the Lake Van Shore.



DAY 7 : VAN - DOGUBAYAZIT

Depart from Van to Dogubeyazit, an ancient town since 2700 years ago which is located near Iran border. Its Armenian's name in the period of Urartu Kingdom was Daruynk. This old beautiful city was under the power of The Sassanids Empire in the 4th century A.D. Under the Mongol in 11th century and again under the Safavid Empire of Persia in 17th century.



Visit the Ishak Pasha Palace, a stunning Ottoman Palace that perched on a clifftop. See the best view of Mount Ararat, the legendary mountain where Noah's Ark is said to have landed. Overnight in Dogubeyazit.

DAY 8 : DOGUBAYAZIT - ANI - KARS

This morning, we will take a trip to the city of Ani, an ancient Armenian city that was once a major trading center and connected to the main Silk Route. The city flourished in 10th -11th century. It was a Bagratid Armenian Kingdom's Capital City between 961-1045 A.D.



The ruins of Ani ancient city are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and very worth to see.

We continue our journey to Kars (42 km from Ani), a rich history city and a unique blend of Armenian, Ottoman and Russian influences.

Explore the Fortress of Kars and a massive Ottoman Citadel. Overnight in Kars.



DAY 9 : KARS - ISTANBUL

Morning time after breakfast, we are going to take a domestic flight from Kars back to Istanbul. We are going to have lunch upon arrival in Istanbul. Continue our tours in Istanbul, visit the Blue Mosque, also known by its official name, Sultan Ahmed Mosque. This is the most prosperous Ottoman Architecture since 1617 A.D. About 100 meters walk from Blue Mosque is the Hagia Sophia.



This is the most prosperous Ottoman Architecture since 1617 A.D. About 100 meters walk from Blue Mosque is the Hagia Sophia. This Grand Mosque was a master piece of Eastern Roman Empire built and completed in 537 A.D. as an Eastern Orthodox Church until the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople in 1453. It was then converted to the Grand Mosque until 1935, when it became a Museum in 2020 and once again became a mosque up to now. We are finally visit the Topkapi Palace, was built by Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror in 1453 as his Grand Palace and lived here until his dead in 1481. All of the Ottomans Sultan lived here until the last Sultan, Abdulmecid I in 1860. It is now a Palace Museum open to the public as the best Ottoman Museum you cannot miss it. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul.



DAY 10 : ISTANBUL - BANGKOK

Continue our tours in Istanbul, visit the Dolmabahce Palace was built between 1843-1856 by the government of Turkey. This is the most beautiful Palace in Baroque and Rococo architectural out of Europe. It served as the administrative center of Ottoman Empire during 1856-1887.



It is now a good time to take the Bosphorus Cruise for the beautiful sceneries along the Bosphorus Strait about 1 hour.



We continue our tours to visit the Sultan Suleyman Mosque up hill in the old part of Istanbul. This Ottoman Imperial Mosque was commissioned by Sultan Suleyman the magnificent and designed by the imperial architect, Minar Siman completed in 1557. It is well known as its elegantly decorated interior and the awe-inspiring size, 47 meters high of the central Dome.



Suleyman was the longest-reigning sultan of Ottoman Empire (during 1520-1566). We are going to finish our trip at the Spice Bazar for shopping.

Dinner at seafood restaurant then transfer to the Airport for Turkish Airlines flight check in to Bangkok(night flight).

DAY 11 : BANGKOK

Morning time, arrive Suvarnabhumi International Airport.