

# Turkey & Eastern Europe Farm Study Tour 2013

## DRAFT ITINERARY

| Date   | Activity  | Overnight       |
|--|---|-----------------|
| <b>DAY 1</b><br><b>Wed, Aug 21</b><br><b>(Meals on plane)</b>                        | Singapore Airlines flights depart various Australian capitals in the early afternoon and arrive Singapore late in the evening of August 21. All farm tour members meet in Singapore prior to our connecting flight to Istanbul departing just after midnight.   |                 |
| <b>DAY 2</b><br><b>Thu, Aug 22</b><br><b>(Meals on plane then lunch in Istanbul)</b> | <b>All passengers: Aug 22 SQ392 departs Singapore 1.50am arrives Istanbul 7.45am</b><br>On arrival at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul, we are transferred to our hotel for a well-earned rest and freshen up before lunch on the hotel terrace. We then enjoy an afternoon cruise on the Bosphorus – the strait separating European and Asian Istanbul. Free evening.   | <b>Istanbul</b> |
| <b>DAY 3</b><br><b>Fri, Aug 23</b><br><b>(B,L)</b>                                   | Guided tour of the ancient and intriguing city of Istanbul, the gateway between Europe and Asia. We will visit Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque, Sancta Sophia, the Hippodrome area, the Roman Cistern, The Grand Bazaar and other historically significant sights. Free evening.  | <b>Istanbul</b> |
| <b>DAY 4</b><br><b>Sat, Aug 24</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>                                 | Early this morning we board our charter coach and depart Istanbul for our journey to the Gallipoli Peninsula and the Dardanelles. We visit a farm along the way before an early lunch at Eceabat, then on to Gallipoli. A specialist Gallipoli guide will take us on an emotion stirring journey through Anzac Cove, Lone Pine, The Nek and other Gallipoli sites where the young Australian nation came of age. Later this afternoon, we ferry across the Dardanelles to Canakkale and continue for 1.5 hours onto the spectacular and ancient harbour of Assos. A magical dinner setting tonight literally on the shores of the sparkling Aegean Sea.   | <b>Assos</b>    |
| <b>DAY 5</b><br><b>Sun, Aug 25</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>                                 | This morning we explore the magnificent village of Assos before continuing south to visit a grain farm in one of the region's fertile irrigation valleys. Then it's onto Izmir, Turkey's third largest city, for overnight.   | <b>Izmir</b>    |
| <b>DAY 6</b><br><b>Mon, Aug 26</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>                                 | This morning we travel an hour or so south to Ephesus – a magnificently preserved Roman city. We enjoy a guided tour of the ruins before visiting a cotton and grain farm in the fertile Selcuk region. We return to Izmir in the mid afternoon for our short, direct flight east to Central Anatolia and the capital of Turkey, Ankara. Alexander the Great and Augustus Caesar have been figured prominently in the history of Ankara but it was Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Turkey's first president and widely revered as the 'Father of the Turks' who in 1920, picked Ankara as his base of operations in the struggle for independence. After Atatürk's victory in the War of Independence in 1923, he declared Ankara the new Turkish capital, and set about developing it. The city's position in the centre of Turkey made it more suitable than Istanbul, both physically and symbolically, as a capital for the new republic. Dinner and overnight in Ankara | <b>Ankara</b>   |
| <b>DAY 7</b><br><b>Tue, Aug 27</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>                                 | This morning we have a city tour of Ankara before continuing southeast and into the heart of Central Anatolia. The vast plateau of Central Anatolia, broken by mountains ranges, is the heartland of modern Turkey and a major agricultural region. Bounded by Ankara, Konya, Karaman, Kahramanmara, Sivas and Amasya, the Central Anatolian plateau (with an altitude ranging from 1000 to 2000 metres) holds the incredible moonscape terrain of Cappadocia, as well as cities founded by the Hittites 3000 years ago. There are some settlements dating back an incredible 7500 years. We enjoy farm and cultural visits today on our way to Kayseri for dinner and overnight.   | <b>Kayseri</b>  |
| <b>DAY 8</b><br><b>Wed, Aug 28</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>                                 | This morning we leave Kayseri and continue onto the major wheat producing area near the ancient city of Konya. Konya is also the city of Whirling Dervishes, and has been for 800 years. This evening we witness the mesmerising whirling ritual.   | <b>Konya</b>    |

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| <b>DAY 9</b><br><b>Thu, Aug 29</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>  | This morning we continue north through Central Anatolia and return to Ankara. From here we catch our afternoon afternoon flight to Kiev in northern Ukraine. Dinner and overnight in Kiev.<br><b>Turkish Airlines Flights TK2147/459 departs Ankara 2.00pm arrives Kiev 8.20 pm</b>   | <b>Kiev (Ukraine)</b>          |
| <b>DAY 10</b><br><b>Fri, Aug 30</b><br><b>(B)</b>     | A guided city tour this morning to get your bearings and then a free afternoon in Kiev.   | <b>Kiev</b>                    |
| <b>DAY 11</b><br><b>Sat, Aug 31</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b> | In the heart of the vast Black Sea grain producing region, Ukraine is one of Australia's biggest competitors in the global grain market and home to some of the most fertile soils on the planet. This morning we board our coach and head southeast to Cherkasy, with a farm visit along the way. Cherkasy is located on the mighty Dnipro River.  | <b>Cherkasy</b>                |
| <b>DAY 12</b><br><b>Sun, Sep 1</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>  | Today we travel west and into the region of Ukraine boasting the most fertile black soils in the country – and arguably the world. We enjoy a farm visit near Vinnytsya and meet with some German farmers who are investing in Ukrainian agriculture.   | <b>Vinnytsya</b>               |
| <b>Day 13</b><br><b>Mon, Sep 2</b><br><b>(B,L)</b>    | More farm and cultural visits as we continue west towards the Polish border and the historic city of Lviv. A city tour of Lviv before a free evening.   | <b>Lviv</b>                    |
| <b>Day 14</b><br><b>Tue, Sep 3</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>  | This morning we cross the nearby border into Poland. We continue west towards Krakow and the magnificent farmlands of southern Poland. Dinner and overnight in Krakow.  | <b>Krakow (Poland)</b>         |
| <b>Day 15</b><br><b>Wed, Sep 4</b><br><b>(B)</b>      | This morning we enjoy a guided city tour of one of the medieval gems of Eastern Europe. Krakow escaped major damage during WWII and today, magnificent buildings of the Old Town such as Wawel Castle and the Cathedral, stand testament to a glorious past and present. Free afternoon and evening.  | <b>Krakow</b>                  |
| <b>Day 16</b><br><b>Thu, Sep 5</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>  | This morning we continue northwest and into the southern Silesia region – the fertile farming heart of Poland. We have a farm visit before continuing onto Wroclaw – a city with a wonderful mix of Gothic and Baroque architectural styles in its Old Town.  | <b>Wroclaw</b>                 |
| <b>Day 17</b><br><b>Fri, Sep 6</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>  | A leisurely start to the day before traveling southwest and into the Czech Republic. We enjoy a farm visit on our way to Prague. We arrive into Prague in the late afternoon.   | <b>Prague (Czech Republic)</b> |
| <b>Day 18</b><br><b>Sat, Sep 7</b><br><b>(B)</b>      | After a brief city tour to get your bearings, you have a free day Prague to do your own sightseeing and shopping. With magnificent and diverse architecture and a vibrant theatre, dining and general entertainment scene, Prague is widely regarded as one of Europe's most exciting cities.   | <b>Prague</b>                  |
| <b>Day 19</b><br><b>Sun, Sep 8</b><br><b>(B,L)</b>    | After a leisurely Sunday morning in Prague we head southwest and into the Bavarian region of Germany. Nestled majestically on the Danube River we arrive in Regensburg – although you could be forgiven for thinking you are in Florence (without the crowds). Free evening in yet another beautiful medieval town.   | <b>Regensburg (Germany)</b>    |
| <b>Day 20</b><br><b>Mon, Sep 9</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b>  | This morning we visit one of Europe's most modern – and most decentralised – farm machinery manufacturing businesses. The Horsch company is family owned and specialises in the design and manufacture of a large range of high quality planting, spraying and tillage implements for the global market. We also visit Bintec, a company specialising in on-farm grain storage design and construction. After lunch we visit a nearby farm where bio-gas production is one of the key enterprises. Later in the afternoon we continue northwest and onto Nuremberg for overnight.                               | <b>Nuremberg</b>               |
| <b>Day 21</b><br><b>Tue, Sep 10</b><br><b>(B,L)</b>   | Nuremberg is Bavaria's second-largest city and for centuries was the unofficial capital of the Holy Roman Empire and the preferred residence of German kings. In the 19th century the city was at the heart of the industrial revolution in Germany. After WWII the city was chosen as the site of the War Crimes Tribunal – the Nuremberg Trials. After painstaking reconstruction – using the original stone – almost all the city's main buildings have returned the city to some of its former glory. We see the main sights of the city through the eyes of born and raised Nuremberg local. Free evening. | <b>Nuremberg</b>               |
| <b>Day 22</b><br><b>Wed, Sep 11</b><br><b>(B,L,D)</b> | This morning we continue onto Frankfurt – 200 km to the northwest – with a farm visit along way and lunch in a Bavarian village. Free time on arrival in Frankfurt for some last minute shopping or your own sightseeing. Farewell dinner this evening.   | <b>Frankfurt</b>               |
| <b>Day 23</b><br><b>Thu, Sep 12</b><br><b>(B)</b>     | This morning we transfer to the airport for our flight home via Singapore. There are also plenty of add-on options into other parts of Europe or a stopover in Singapore on the way home. Please contact us if you are interested in doing an add-on.   | <b>On plane</b>                |