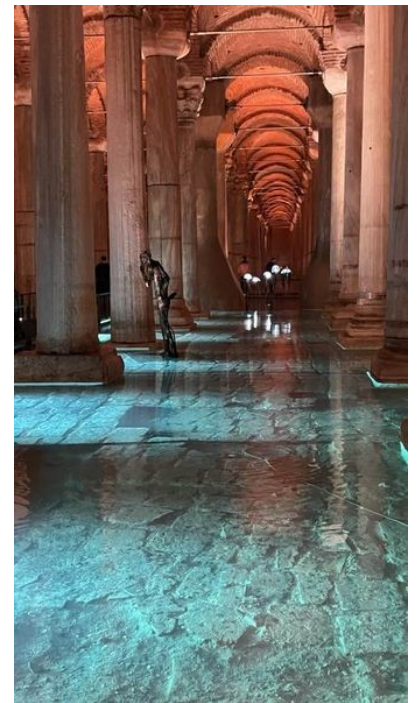
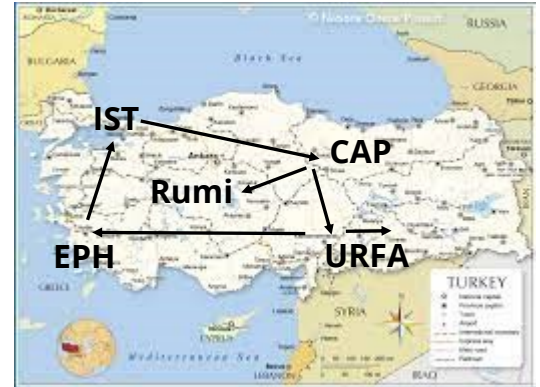




ASTROMARK

Visiting Sacred Sites in Turkey April 2023

Twelve metaphysically oriented adventurers explored sacred sites in Turkey. The universe taught us adaptability as our path changed almost daily due to the big earthquake, floods, location closings, and avoiding cruise ship crowds. Although we missed some important museums, we were taken to out of the way sites that even our guide had never visited. We were greatly blessed in trusting the universe to lead us to where we needed to be. By the time we got to Gobekli Tepe, we had merged into a close knit family of spiritual seekers.



Istanbul has 18 million people, and I was grateful to be there early in the season as tourism gets very hot and busy in the summer. Our hotel was within walking distance of Hagia Sophia (means holy wisdom), Topkapi Palace, and the Basilica Cistern. Of course, every visitor wants to go on the Bosphorous cruise. Many in our group loved to shop.



Roman Hippodrome near Blue Mosque

Small group metaphysical travel with Astromark

Mark Dodich mark@astromark.us

<https://astromark.us/sacred-travel/>



Mark & Kerrri at the Fairy Chimneys at Cappadocia
This central Turkey area is quite mystical, and attending a Whirling Dervish ceremony added to it.

Donna wins the shopping award



Cave Hotel



Entrance to caves where Christians stored food and hid from invaders



Scenic breakfasts with lots of energetic talk, overlooking Cappadocia



Göbekli Tepe is in ancient Mesopotamia in distant SE Turkey. It is at least 6000 years older than Stonehenge, better built, and close to the Syrian border. It is special because it was built with no farmers in the area, meaning that the spiritual worship was first, and farmers came later, exactly opposite of the way other ceremonial sites were created. Sisters Linda and Nancy with Mark. We were lucky to have this solitary tree on a hill to ourselves above the site. We chanted Oms. Lynn and Donna rest after hiking up the hill (Tepe is the Turkish word for hill)



These plates were such a hit, several travelers purchased them directly from the restaurant.

No shoes on the carpet for a private family dinner in Urfa. Most of us were full before the main course arrived

Small group metaphysical travel with Astromark

Mark Dodich mark@astromark.us

<https://astromark.us/sacred-travel/>



Remains of the Artemis temple
Goddess of hunting, wild animals
and children



Healing temple Asklepiion and
drinking the healing waters.

Leaning on the underground wall in
healing area, several thousand
years old.



Contrary to the fears some people put out about traveling to Turkey, the people were nice and we felt safe. Our media puts out fear and presents an inaccurate view of Turkey. At one point, we were 12 miles from the Syrian border. It was quiet farm country and the people welcomed us.



Ephesus is a gigantic site, and the marble is slippery when wet. Below is Virgin Mary home after crucifixion



Ancient Harran Village in outer SE Turkey had a university to study stars, knowing the exact distance to the moon centuries ago. Beehive homes stay cool in hot summer.



Where would you like to go next?

Mark is keeping a list, email: mark@astromark.us

Travel to far away places helps you expand your consciousness and bursts illusions. We learned that Islamic religion has much in common with western religion. We are not so far apart as the evangelist television shows would have you think.

We come back changed for the better. We improve or sense of self worth and deal with our fears. In spite of our differences, we come back as a family, knowing we are not alone in this world.

There is mutual support. I was concerned that my bone on bone knees would not make the trip. Stairs were difficult but I kept going (slowly) and faced my fears. I also saw that I am lousy at accepting help (Thanks, Linda for helping me look at that- I'll work on that). Having been in hermit-monk mode for so long, I recognize the value of sharing and look forward to implementing improvements in my life that I would not have considered staying in my little monk's house on the outskirts of Portland.

Please know that this is not a sales pitch for future trips. None of the 5 trips we have taken have been for profit. If enough people come, I get my tour paid for, but still pay my own airfare and meals. **It is very simple, stepping out of your comfort zone to see who you really are is invaluable.** Doing it with like minded friends makes it easier. There is a lot of love and support in such a group.

Making time and spending your money on travel shows the universe that you trust your connection to the One Source of what Hermetic Philosophers call "All That Is." It shows that you believe in an unlimited supply of Abundance. You cannot wait for a guarantee from the universe because it is your job to be the Creator. You must take the first step. That's a basic metaphysical principle.

Lastly, it was a great honor for me to have such old souls join me in tuning into ancient energies. It is a very good sign when you attract souls of such quality. Blessings and thanks to the 11.

Sojourn Travel was excellent in managing our adventure, check out
<https://www.sojournturkeytours.com/>

Mark F Dodich

mark@astromark.us

(land) 503-252-1558

Information on future trips will be at the website:

<https://astromark.us/sacred-travel/>

You can also register for the New and Full Moon email newsletter and pick up the quarterly newsletter at: **astromark.us**



Rumi, Konya,
Whirling Dervish ceremony

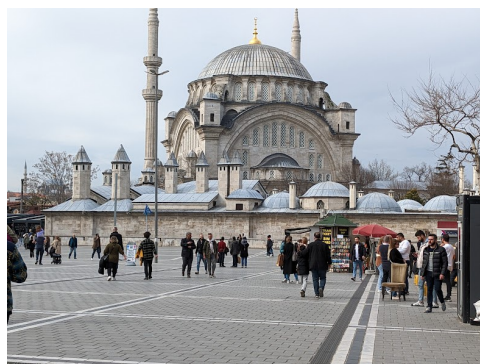


Harran Village in distant SE Turkey
living in Beehives keeps them cool



Cappadocia above photo
drinking spring water at Asclepius healing temple, photo below

Below Istanbul



Mark F Dodich

mark@astromark.us

(land) 503-252-1558

Register for the New and Full Moon email newsletter and pick up the quarterly
newsletter at: **astromark.us**