

A photograph of Whirling Dervishes in the middle of a Sema ceremony. The central figure is in sharp focus, wearing a white robe with long sleeves and a black belt, and a tall, conical felt hat. His arms are raised, and his white skirt is flared out due to the rapid spinning. In the background, other dancers are visible, slightly out of focus, also in motion. The overall atmosphere is dynamic and spiritual.

MindStormPhoto Turkey 2016 pt 2

Burt and Evelyn Johnson

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Turkey 11 – Tulips in Emirgan Park



Turkey 11 – Tulips in Emirgan Park

As we drove along the Bosphorus, we were impressed by how much it looks like the bay in Sausalito or Tiburon (two upscale communities to the North of San Francisco). When we approached the park, the driver stopped and indicated via pantomime that we had to walk from there. A police roadblock had been set up at the park entrance, in which all cars had their trunks searched, mirrors used to look for bombs underneath, and passenger IDs checked. We had been told before that this was normal for Turkey, and not any new security efforts due to ISIS activity.

As we arrived at the park, all the flower beds were choked with dead and dying tulips. Bummed out, we shot a few images of the dead plants (above), but decided to explore the park anyway.

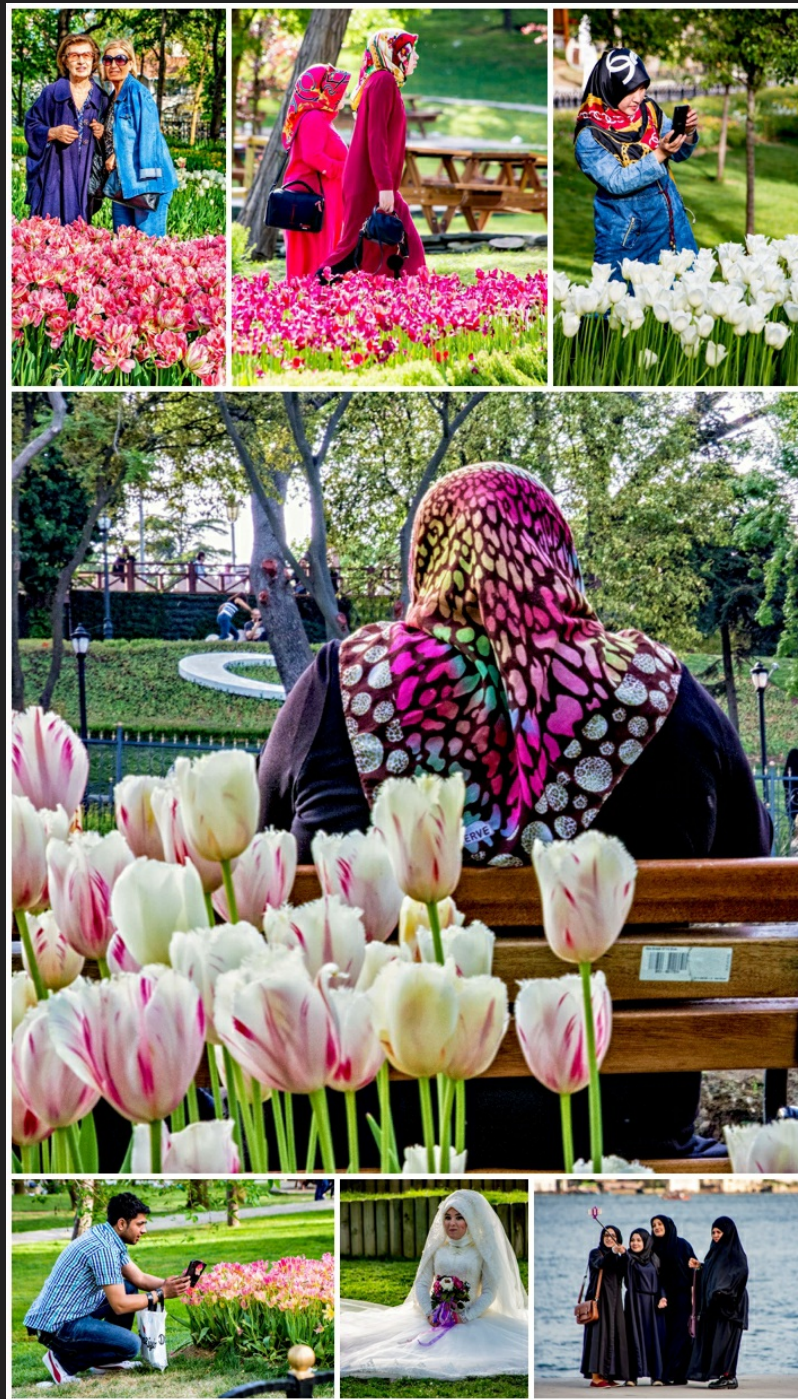
Fortunately, as we went deeper into the park, we found plenty of vibrant tulips to enchant us and our cameras. The planters had seen the wisdom of staggering the plantings, so while some were dying, others were in full bloom, while still other beds were in early budding, set to bloom in the coming days.

Turkey 11 – Tulips in Emirgan Park



The tulips were laid out in beds, with a single color filling each section. We were glad there were *still* many tulips for us to photograph.

Turkey 11 – Tulips in Emirgan Park



We were here on a Monday afternoon, expecting the park to be largely empty. To our surprise, the park was filled with people enjoying the environment. There were yet more pre-wedding photo sessions. We were rather surprised by how steep the paths are in the park. Istanbul is a hilly city, and the park is no exception.



Even Evelyn could not resist the urge to play among the tulips!

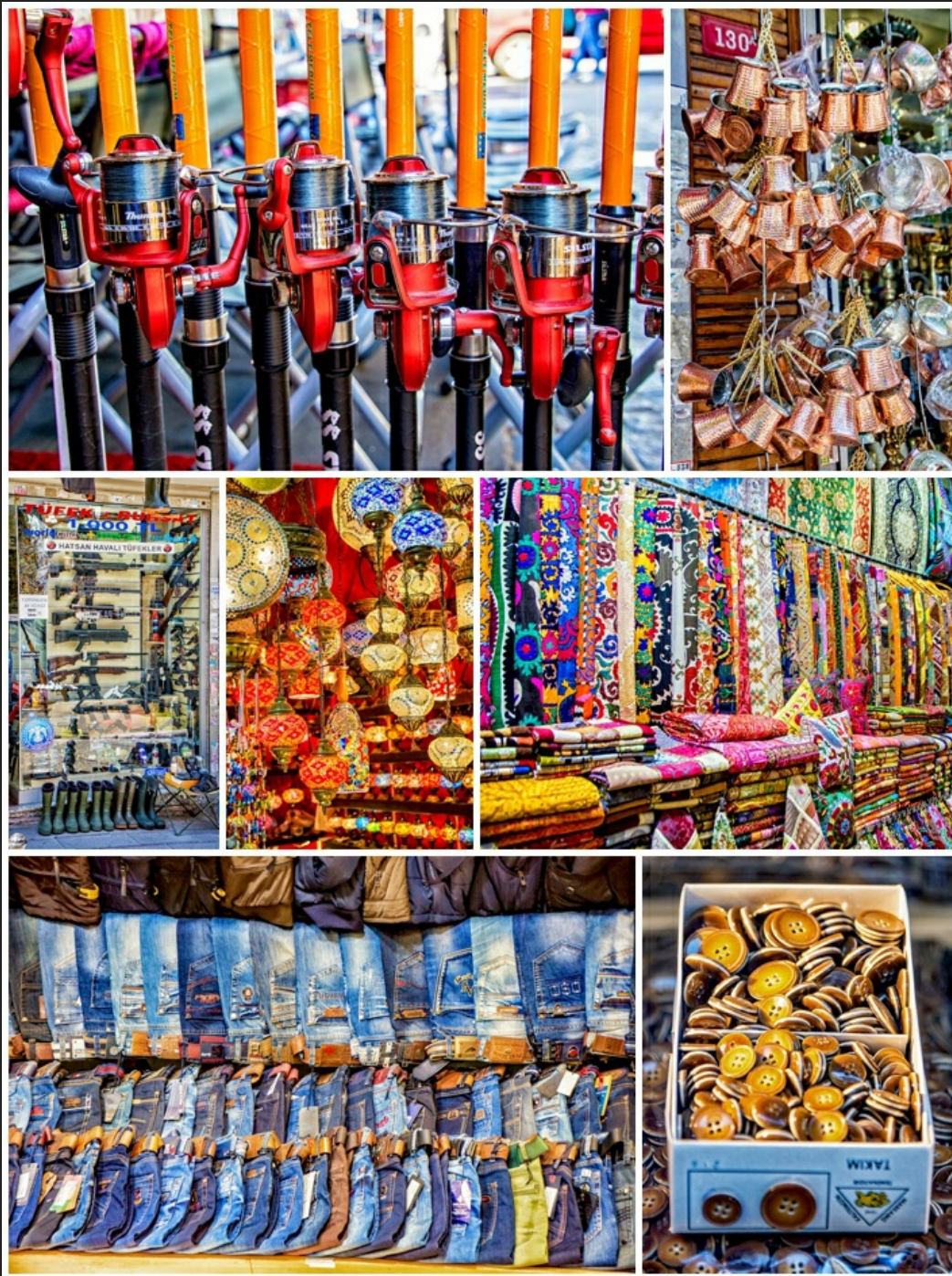
Turkey 12 – Grand Bazaar



Today we visited the [Grand Bazaar](#) in Istanbul. This is the largest covered market in the world, covering 61 streets and more than 3000 vendors. In addition, there were many more vendors on the outside surrounding this market. There is no way that anyone can visit more than a small portion of the bazaar in a single afternoon.

Turkey 12 – Grand Bazaar

It was difficult taking any photographs that would actually give a sense of the enormous scale of this place -- the indoor streets are narrow, crisscrossed by overhead electrical cables, and usually packed with people. It is estimated that between 250,000 and 400,000 people visit this bazaar every day.



Turkey 13 – The Turkish Pinch

You can buy nearly anything at the bazaar. From blue jeans, to buttons, to scarves, lights, fishing poles, ceramics, and even assault rifles. Not only is everything available to purchase, but every item is also negotiable, meaning most transactions are accompanied by a period of haggling.



As with the Spice Market a few blocks away, there were plenty of vendors of Turkish Delight. We stopped at one such vendor (who spoke 12 languages!), sampled many, and ended up buying a kilo of Delight plus dried apricots, taking home the box seen in the lower right.

Turkey 13 – The Turkish Pinch



We spent today with Aysin, from [Cookistan](#) to learn how to cook a 6-course Turkish meal. We traveled there using [Uber](#) for the first time, which worked well in getting us directly to the meeting point, though it took 93 minutes to travel 27 km (about 16 miles) in Istanbul traffic. With Aysin's directions, we were able to return via subway at 1/10 the cost and less time.

Turkey 13 – The Turkish Pinch

We began the session with a tour around her neighborhood on the European side, stopping at various stores to learn about the foods and spices, and to pick up a few items for our upcoming meal.

One shop specialized only in the "inner parts of the animal," and photographs of lamb brains and feet can be seen above. At another stop, we discovered men cutting the leaves off artichokes (lower right), leaving only the "*artichoke heart*" for sale in markets and restaurants. We were told that the leaves and stem are sold for animal food and preparation of cosmetics.

Turkey 13 – The Turkish Pinch



Upon entering Aysin's beautiful home, we immediately saw a large preparation area set up for us (upper left), laid out with ingredients, spices and utensils for our class. After a welcoming glass of tea, we started the lesson. Aysin told us she would show us three types of Turkish food: Istanbul, Ottoman and Antalyean.

We started making a pumpkin dessert, because it took awhile to cook, and then had to be chilled before serving. We then went on to learn how to cook:

- Süleymaniye Soup (lower right)
- Bulgur Salad
- Cirkassian Chicken
- Börecik (middle right)
- Stuffed Dried Eggplants (lower left)

For each course, Aysin would make a dish, and we would then each make the same, color coding our plates so we would know who made which. Then would come the taste test to see how they turned out.

All the foods involved a "Turkish pinch" (three fingers grabbing a **lot** of spice) for each of four spices (mint, medium-hot red pepper, cumin and paprika), plus black pepper and salt. I kept holding back, thinking I was going to overpower the meal, but it seems that Turkish recipes do indeed use a lot of spice.

Each of the courses was absolutely delicious, though as you might imagine, there was way too much food to eat at one sitting. We therefore took home several plates of the cold foods, which took care of dinner tonight and probably lunch tomorrow.

, April 27, 2016

[cooking](#), [Evelyn](#), [Food](#), [recipe](#), [Turkey](#) · [class](#)

Turkey 14 – A Dervish Delight



Today we watched a Whirling Dervish performance in Istanbul. The dervish were a Muslim sect that originated in [Konya](#), but were outlawed by the first Turkish president, [Mustafa Kemal Atatürk](#), in 1923. The whirling was part of a religious ceremony, in which the person was supposed to lose his ego to the wider universe. The worshiper begins with black robes, symbolizing the ego's shroud. He then removes the robe, revealing a white robe beneath, indicating the loss of ego and acceptance of the love of God's unity.

Turkey 14 – A Dervish Delight

Today, more than 90 years after the outlawing of any Muslim sect other than Sunni and Shiite, this performance is more "whirling for dollars" than religious. It is a popular tourist attraction now. We have been told repeatedly that tourism is massively depressed in recent months, due to ISIS and other concerns. This event drove that fact home for us. This performance generally sells out early. Tonight though, there were fewer than 30 spectators in the 200+ seats, so everyone had a front-row seat.

Turkey 14 – A Dervish Delight



The dancers arrive in their black robes, which they then remove. The leader keeps his black robe on, and wanders among the dancers. Meanwhile, the musicians are on an upper balcony, to provide chants and instrumentals.

Turkey 14 – A Dervish Delight



The dancers whirl around and around, circling the small stage.

Turkey 14 – A Dervish Delight



They whirl until their ego has left, allowing them to be one with the universe.

Turkey 14 – A Dervish Delight



After the performance was over, we took the funicular (middle-left) down to the wharf area. We walked across the Galata bridge again, watching more fishermen (bottom images) plus one woman, as they while the time away, more as a social gathering than for catching dinner.

Turkey 15 – Museums and Mosques



Turkey 15 – Museums and Mosques

Everywhere we turned, there were people taking selfies. The days of waving down a stranger and asking them to take your photo are definitely over, with everyone seeming to own a "selfie stick" or mobile camera phone -- and always there was someone willing to sell you a "selfie stick", if you didn't already have one (lower right image).



Turkey 15 – Museums and Mosques

We took a ferry from the European side, where the performance was, back home to the Asian side of Istanbul. The sun was setting and some clouds were forming during our crossing, giving us our best sunset cruise to date.



If you would like to get a more visceral feel of the whirling dervish performance, watch the 3 minute video below:

Whirling Dervish in Istanbul April 30, 2016

Turkey 15 – Museums and Mosques



We have spent the last couple days seeing various mosques and museums. Both are ubiquitous in Istanbul, with **2,944 active mosques**, and (it sometimes seems) almost as many **museums**.

Turkey 15 – Museums and Mosques



Most mosques are topped by a dome that looks ordinary from the outside, but is elaborately ornate on the inside. Many are painted, others have frescoes, and the most elaborate have tile patterns.

Turkey 15 – Museums and Mosques



Many of the mosques and churches also include elaborate stained glass windows, and often exotic tiles and scripts on their walls.

Turkey 15 – Museums and Mosques



Turkey 15 – Museums and Mosques

One of the most famous palace museums is the [Topkapi Palace](#). The palace housed a sultan with over 4000 of his people, so the grounds were immense. Unfortunately, many interesting displays of ancient artifacts were behind very poorly lit glass, where a person had to press his nose to the glass to see anything. Since it was crowded, that meant you saw nothing unless you were willing to go at a snail's pace with the other tourists to view some of the jewelry. No thanks...

To add insult, there was no photography allowed. Why? It was allowed up until 5 years ago, when the director of the museum released his own book with photographs of the artifacts. He then banned photography. You can make your own conclusion on that timing...

Turkey 15 – Museums and Mosques



People watching is always fun around the public areas of any of these mosques and museums. Most people are friendly, and willing to smile for the camera.

Turkey 16 – City Views and Lights



Our last stop for the day was the [Archaeological Museum](#), which was one of the best we have seen throughout our travels. We have visited museums throughout the world, but have never seen such a large display of nearly intact ancient statues, as shown above.

Turkey 16 – City Views and Lights



The collection of sarcophagi was particularly impressive. We have never seen more than one or two reasonably intact sarcophagus at a time, yet here were many dozens of them, each more elaborate than the last, and all in excellent condition.

Turkey 16 – City Views and Lights



Some of the details of the sarcophagi can be seen here. Definitely a "must see" for anyone visiting Istanbul!

, May 4, 2016

Turkey 16 – City Views and Lights

Travel, Turkey

Turkey 16 – City Views and Lights



Mehmet, the leader of our photographic tour of Turkey (www.fantasticphototours.com), took us on an afternoon walk around parts of Istanbul today. We wandered around parts of the Grand Bazaar again, and then up a hidden set of stairs. He talked to a guard, who at first insisted we could go no further. As usual, Mehmet convinced him otherwise, and soon we found ourselves through a secret door, and up on the rooftop of the Bazaar.

Turkey 17 – Historic Churches



The views were mesmerizing, and we couldn't stop shooting more and more photos. This site was higher than any other location we had found to photograph the city skyline and the major mosques of the area, with views of the Süleymaniye Mosque, the New Mosque, Galata Towers, the Bosphorous and the Golden Horn inlet.

Turkey 17 – Historic Churches



Turkey 17 – Historic Churches

The path up to this hidden gem was down a corridor (upper right). As we were getting ready to leave, the guard showed us a side room with an ancient rusted weaving loom (center, plus lower left and lower center), sitting on a floor of broken tiles. After leaving the roof, and walking back towards the street, we spotted a workshop making items to sell at the Bazaar. Brass pots with typical Muslim crescent moon symbols were in various stages of production, and the workers welcomed us in to photograph.



Turkey 17 – Historic Churches

After dinner, we stayed to see the night lights at the Eminönü Pier, on the European side. As the sun set, the lights of the floating restaurants and vendor carts were turned on and we could enjoy seeing the colors of the busy waterfront, as well as the "blue" hour, which occurs shortly after sundown.



, May 6, 2016

[Tour, Travel, Turkey](#)

Turkey 17 – Historic Churches

Turkey 17 – Historic Churches



We also visited three other famous landmarks in Istanbul. They had been built more than 1500 years ago, converted to mosques 600 years ago, then two were converted into museums, while the third remains as an active mosque. The image above is the central dome from the church of St. Saviour in Chora.

Turkey 17 – Historic Churches



Turkey 17 – Historic Churches

Chora is the most completely restored historic church we have seen, and is home to one of the world's finest collections of Byzantine art, with more than 100 mosaics and frescoes. Originally built in the 4th century AD (1700 hundred years ago!), the city was conquered in 1453, and turned into a mosque 50 years after that. Fortunately, the Muslims did not destroy the original artwork, but only placed a layer of plaster over it. Restoration work began in 1948, removing the plaster and exposing the gold mosaic tiles of the original art. The lower right image above shows one of the mosaics still partially covered in plaster.

Turkey 18 – Bosphorus Cruise



Turkey 18 – Bosphorus Cruise

Eyüp Sultan Mosque was initially built as a monastery in the 5th century AD, and the village is now a place of pilgrimage for Muslims from all around the world. Eyüp was conquered by the Crusaders in 1204, sustaining very little damage. It remained a monastery until 1581, when the Ottoman Empire prohibited Christians from living in the area, and converted it into a mosque. It is still an active mosque, and chosen as a burial site by the elite with their mausoleums lining the streets surrounding the mosque. The courtyard was also great for people watching. The boy in the lower left image had just taken part in a circumcision ceremony.

Turkey 18 – Bosphorus Cruise



Hagia Sophia is another historic Christian church, built in the 6th century AD (note the progression here, of roughly 100 years between each of these three being built). It had the largest dome in the world for 1000 years, until the 16th century, having been converted to a mosque a century earlier. The building is now a museum, and under active restoration (middle left shows scaffolds).

Turkey 18 – Bosphorus Cruise



Of course, anywhere photography is allowed these days, selfies are sure to follow (upper left and upper center)... This is still considered a highly religious site by both Muslims (upper right) and Christians. Outside the church walls, the tombs of numerous sultans are free to enter and view (bottom row), and were built with intricate tile work as you might find in jewel boxes.

, May 7, 2016

Travel, Turkey

Turkey 18 – Bosphorus Cruise



Turkey 18 – Bosphorus Cruise

Today, we cruised along the [Bosphorus Strait](#), a body of water that connects the Sea of Marmara (where we start) to the Black Sea (where we turn around), as well as separating the continents of Asia and Europe. The cruise takes about 90 minutes, plus a 3 hour break at [Anadolu Kavagi](#), then 90 minutes back to the starting point. The weather was "mostly sunny", which enabled us to see the turquoise color of the water in the strait. The Bosphorous tour is considered one of the top 10 things to do in Istanbul, so we checked it off.

Above are various scenes we saw from the ferry as we traveled up and down the strait, as we passed by many wooden villages, mosques and castles. The lower right image shows a group that appeared to be military cadets in dress whites at the shore, cheering a rowboat of classmates as they passed by. There was only the one boat though. No others appeared to be racing against them, and there was no other indication of a race event. We motored on past, scratching our heads over what was really going on.

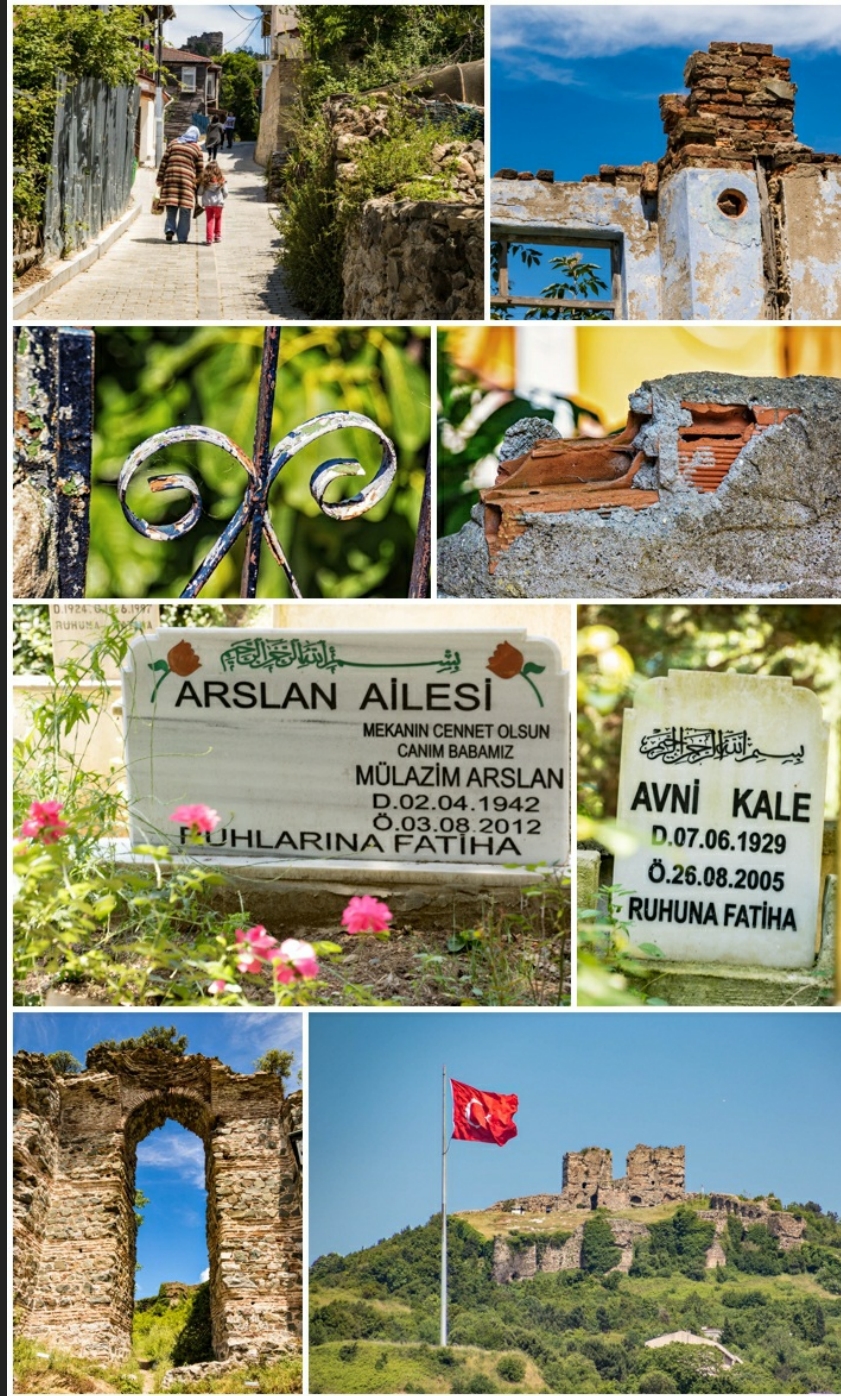
For an extra 14TL (about \$3.50 US), you can rent an audio tour in your preferred language. I got one, and felt it provided a good narrative of the various highlights along the way. The narrative talked about the various buildings we were passing, and some often interesting historic tidbits. For example, as we crossed under the [Bosphorus Bridge](#), we were told that the first recorded crossing was in 500BC, when *Emperor Darius the Great of Persia* created a bridge by lining ships side by side. He then led 700,000 soldiers over that pontoon bridge to overwhelm Macedonia.

Turkey 18 – Bosphorus Cruise



As is usually the case, it was the people that were most fascinating. Here are a few that we met along the way, both on the ferry and in the village. John (top left) had 5 days between finishing school in Davis, CA., and starting a new career as a paramedic in Las Vegas, and chose to spend that time in Istanbul. It's what we would have done at his age.

Turkey 19 – Sea Life Aquarium



Turkey 19 – Sea Life Aquarium

When we arrived in Anadolu Kavagi, we had three hours to explore the former fishing village before our return trip. We opted to climb the very steep hill up to [Yoros Castle](#). At the top, we snacked on fried mussels, which the restaurants in this village are known for. This castle is the only historic remnant in town, and overlooks the Black Sea. It is a rather small castle, compared to most others we have seen in Turkey, and was closed today. Thus, even after climbing the hill, we could only see the outside and the expansive view. Enroute on our walk to the castle, we passed a small cemetery.

Turkey 19 – Sea Life Aquarium



We returned to [Eminönü](#), the same port we had departed from. This ferry port is filled with food vendors of various sorts, so we decided to sample some of the food this time, including a very popular fish sandwich. We had also seen some small donuts-like fried pastries many times (center). This time, we decided to buy a cup (2TL, or about 60 cents US). Sure enough. Glazed donuts for a treat.

Turkey 19 – Sea Life Aquarium

We had also seen the red liquid with something-or-other in it (upper center and upper left) many times, and this time bought one to try (also 2TL). Turned out to be pickles and cabbage in pickle juice. Very popular with the locals to augment the fish sandwiches, but not my favorite...



Turkey 19 – Sea Life Aquarium

We are now in our final week in Istanbul, and are starting to explore places that have been on our *"would like to see if we had time"* list. Today, that brought us to the [Sea Life Aquarium](#). Because our first two businesses back in the early 1970's related to tropical fish (a long story for a different time), we often visit aquariums in cities around the world, whenever we have time. We have seen some of the best in the world, so didn't really have particularly high expectations today.

As we got off the metro, there were a couple of kids (OK, at this point, anyone under 40 is a "kid" to us...) handing out discount coupons for the aquarium. That was a bonus, not only for saving 10TL per ticket, but also because we had no idea where to go. Signage for the aquarium was non-existent, so I asked the kids where to go. In very acceptable English, he gave me directions (*"turn right, then left, then go 100 meters, then turn left, then go 20 meters, then turn right"* -- yeah, not very obvious is it?).

We approached the front door, and found a small entrance like you would see for a tienda. I almost suggested we skip it, but we had traveled over an hour to get here, so we went in. The hallway leading to the ticket counter was lined with cartoons of fish. It looked like we were entering a tacky roller coaster ride from the 60s era. My expectations fell still further. At the counter, we presented our coupons, and then Evelyn asked if there was a senior discount (I'm not accustomed to asking for that yet!). Sure enough. That brought the 45TL ticket down to 32TL (about \$10 for both of us). Off we went on our "dive" as they called it.

Turkey 20 – Dolmabahçe Palace and Eyüp



We turned the corner... and almost immediately our expectations rose. Very nice displays of a wide variety of tropical fish, both small and large. Healthy tanks with healthy fish, and every time you thought you were done and turned another corner, there were still more tanks. The longer we were there, the more impressed we became.

Turkey 20 – Dolmabahçe Palace and Eyüp

Yes, there were cartoons along the way, plus puzzles, for the school kids. The images of crabs, eels, and other aquatic animals were annotated with "fun facts" and descriptions of the various parts -- both in Turkish and English. This place was geared as much to kids as to adults, with enough to keep both entranced.



There were tunnels for kids to crawl through (upper left), diving bell domes to get an inside look (Evelyn in the upper center), massive displays to surround you (lower left), and of course lots of opportunities for selfies (lower right).

Turkey 20 – Dolmabahçe Palace and Eyüp

After wandering along the path of display tanks for more than an hour, we came across the tunnel shown in the block of images starting this blog. This wound along for another 100 yards or so, with the fish (including at least a dozen varieties of sharks and another dozen varieties of manta and sting rays) swimming around and over the top of us. This last section kept the attention of most people for at least another half hour.

We fortunately chose an early afternoon weekday to come. Crowds were quite small, with only a couple dozen people wandering the displays. Afterwards, we went across the street to [CookShop](#). The restaurant was nearly full when we went into the aquarium, and still nearly full when we left. Good sign, so we tried it. The food was delicious (we will probably go back). Their motto was "*ordinary things done in extraordinary ways*"

As we ate, a horde of 50 or more young kids piled into the Sea Life Aquarium as part of a school field trip. We smiled as we finished our ice cream dessert, a Swiss ice cream that is only sold this time of year, and were glad we had come earlier in the day...

Turkey 20 – Dolmabahçe Palace and Eyüp

Turkey 20 – Dolmabahçe Palace and Eyüp



Turkey 20 – Dolmabahçe Palace and Eyüp

Yesterday, we started at a crafts market in Üsküdar, then took the ferry across the Bosphorous to tour the [Dolmabahçe Palace](#), which was built in 1853. It is easy to look at all these palaces, and wonder why "each new sultan had to build his own". In this case, though, it was replacing [Topkapi Palace](#), which the line of sultans had occupied for over 400 years. I guess I'd look for new digs after 400 years too...

The grounds include a huge garden, which is actually landfill created in the 18th century. The buildings are grand, as you probably expect. Created by French and Italian architects in the "Westernization Period" of the Ottoman Empire, the buildings and decor look like ones we've seen in [Versailles](#), France.

Unfortunately, there was no photography allowed inside any of the buildings.



Turkey 21 – Ortaköy - MindStormPhoto Blog and Gallery

Today we took the ferry up the Golden Horn, and then spent another few hours at [Eyüp](#), a local pilgrimage site. The village has large cemeteries, including older Ottoman mausoleums, so we spent some time locating the Ottoman headstones dating back to the Middle Ages, while others were new in this decade. You can recognize the men's headstones, as they have either a turban or a [fez](#), whereas the women's headstones were adorned more simply.

Turkey 21 – Ortaköy - MindStormPhoto Blog and Gallery



We had earlier visited the [Eyüp Sultan Mosque](#), so won't repeat those images here. There were several other small tombs around the village with the remains of past sultans. Then, we rode the funicular to the top to [Pierre Loti](#) for the panoramic views and some ice cream.

Turkey 21 – Ortaköy - MindStormPhoto Blog and Gallery



People-watching is always a popular portion of any trip we take, and this was no exception. As was true last time we were here, there were about a dozen young boys dressed up as sultans for their circumcision ceremonies.

Turkey 21 – Ortaköy - MindStormPhoto Blog and Gallery



On the way back home, we saw this scene of urban decay on the riverbank. An old factory and boat long since rusted and gone to ruin. If we had a few more days in Istanbul, we would have arranged to go there and crawl through the debris for some interesting detail photos.

, June 1, 2016

[Travel, Turkey](#)

Turkey 21 – Ortaköy

Turkey 21 – Ortaköy - MindStormPhoto Blog and Gallery



The "Blue Hour" at Ortaköy Camii

Turkey 21 – Ortaköy - MindStormPhoto Blog and Gallery



We traveled by ferry to Beşiktaş, today, then took a long walk to Ortaköy Mosque, which is located right at the foot of the Bosphorous Bridge, specifically to photograph the "*camii*" (in Turkish) as the sun set.

Turkey 22 – Market – Tarihi Sali Pazari

When we arrived at [Beşiktaş](#), we tried to find the bus to take us to Ortaköy. However, we failed to find the bus stop, so opted to walk the couple of miles. Turned out that was a fortunate move. While walking, we passed the same bus number we had been looking for three times. The roads were so clogged that we arrived in Ortaköy before any of those three buses did...



Turkey 22 – Market – Tarihi Sali Pazari

Ortaköy is a picturesque village right on on the Bosphorous strait known for its colorful nightlife scene and its mosque. The mosque is quite a gem; small yet beautiful and tranquil (upper row). People come to the restaurants (lower row) for their kumpir (potato skins filled with your choice of goodies), fresh seafood and waffles. While waiting for the sun to set, a strange-looking boat arrived (middle left) and began scooping up garbage from the harbor. We had seen a couple of these boats before, but this was the first time we saw them in action (also see video clip at end of this blog post).

Turkey 22 – Market – Tarihi Sali Pazari



Turkey 22 – Market – Tarihi Sali Pazari

As always, watching people is a favorite activity for us. The [imam](#) praying (upper left) is probably the same person doing the 5-times per day [call to prayer](#) over the mosque loudspeakers. A wedding couple came for their photo shoot a little before sundown (upper right), and other people were feeding the pigeons on the square. Once the sun had set, we saw a young girl holding a paper "[wish lanterns](#)", ready to launch it.

Here is a 47 second video showing the [garbage boat](#) in action, with the claws grabbing the trash on the surface of the water, then a conveyor belt pulling it out. The Bosphorus Strait was generally considered a polluted garbage dump in the 2000's. In 2009, Istanbul put 12 of these on full-time duty. You would never know today that garbage was once a problem. These boats have been extremely effective.

, June 2, 2016

[Travel, Turkey](#)

Turkey 22 – Market – Tarihi Sali Pazari



We read about a large market on the Asian side (where we are staying), and decided to go there. We got the address and directions from a web site on local Istanbul markets, and off we went. First we walk to the metro, take that to the end of the line, then find bus 8A, and take that for seven stops and get off.

Turkey 22 – Market – Tarihi Sali Pazari

When we got off the bus, there is a 40,000 sq ft hole in the ground with a sign for the *Mandarin Hotel* construction project! Huh??? We walked into a local store and ask about the bazaar. He looks quizzically at us until we find an alternate word in our digital dictionary. The owner then says in broken English "*Pazar. No more*" as he swipes his hands together to emphasize the point. He then says we can walk a kilometer to get to the new location. Off we go.

A couple block later, we decided to stop in a little tienda for a drink, since it was getting hot and we suspected 1 km might be an underestimate. Evelyn asked that owner for confirmation. "Yes," he said, "*Pazar has moved. There is a free bus that takes customers to the new pazar*" as he points for us to go a block to the signal light, then turn right.

We walk to the shuttle location, where we find one matronly woman waiting. Through hand signs and "*pazar*" as our only word in common, she confirms we are in the right location, so we wait. Half an hour later, the shuttle (a minivan) arrives, and we are off again -- for roughly 5km (not 1...), including a stretch of freeway we would not have been allowed to walk.

Where do we find ourselves? At the largest neighborhood bazaar in Istanbul... right next to a metro station halfway back home (Göztepe)... We took a very long way and time to get here, but at least the route home was short.

The first section was filled with fruits and vegetables, just as we would find in any of the larger mercados in Cuenca. The food appeared more fresh and larger than ones we've seen at our local markets, and the prices much lower than the other markets we have visited. We ended up buying a few bags of fruit to sample. Since we were leaving Turkey soon, we couldn't really get much.

Turkey 22 – Market – Tarihi Sali Pazari

