

An Exclusive Cultural Tour with Yuval Ron
to the
Sufi and Gypsy musicians and dancers of
Turkey

Itinerary (May 30 - June 13, 2011)

May 30 - Fly on your own to Turkey (or arrange with Tour Operator to fly from JFK airport, NY on our group flight).

May 31 – ISTANBUL – CAPPADOCIA: Arrive in **Istanbul**, meet our local Turkish English speaking tour operator Joshkun Tamar, and transfer via a domestic flight (45 min.) to the wondrous beautiful cave city of **Cappadocia** - the historical refuge of the early Christians and a sanctuary for Greek Orthodox followers for generations. Arrive in Cappadocia in the late afternoon. Dinner with our group or on your own at our magical cave hotel, followed by an orientation and welcome session with Yuval Ron. Free evening to rest and recover from the travel. Accommodations in the hotel.

June 1 – CAPPADOCIA: Breakfast at the hotel followed by a full day tour of Cappadocia. The natural **Citadel of Uchisar** will enable you to get a panoramic view of the region. Goreme valley houses the **Goreme Open Air Museum**, with its churches hewn out of rock and the **colorful frescoes** which decorate them. We will also meet the traditional handicrafts artists who make **tiles, ceramics, pottery and jewelry**. Lunch with the group or on your own, at one of the typical restaurants in the area. In the evening: Dinner and a **local review show of the various styles of Turkey's folkloric music and dance traditions**. Accommodations in the Hotel.

June 2 - CAPPADOCIA – KONYA: Departure from Cappadocia to **Konya** - the historical capital of the Seljuk Turks in the 13th century and the home city of the great **Mystic Sufi poet Mevlana Jalal-a-din Rumi**. Lunch with the group or on your own, at one of Konya's typical restaurants. Visit the burial place of Rumi (**Mevlana Museum**), the tomb of **Shams el Tibriz** and the theological school of **Whirling Dervishes**. Dinner with the group or on your own, at one of the many local restaurants. At night join **Dervish Aziz** and **Yuval Ron** to meet the local **Sufi dervishes** for an **authentic Sufi music and whirling ritual ceremony** in the Sufi tradition (**Zikir**). Accommodations at the Hotel.

June 3 – KONYA – BODRUM: Departure to **Bodrum**, known in ancient times as Halicarnassus. Situated on a beautiful peninsula, Bodrum, home of the famous Greek historian Herodotus, is surrounded by enchanting villages of houses painted in white and trimmed with purple bougainvillea. Lunch with the group or on your own at a stop on the way. Dinner and accommodations at the Hotel. At night: **A live music presentation by Yuval Ron on the history of the Spanish Jews in the Ottoman Empire.**

June 4 – BODRUM: A day visit to a traditional Turkish village to meet the **traditional handicrafts artists** who make the world renewed **Turkish carpets and rugs (Kilim)**. Enjoy **a traditional lunch served by the villagers** at the village. Dinner and accommodations in the hotel. Free evening to rest or explore the city on your own.

June 5 – BODRUM: Visit the **spectacular medieval Bodrum Castle** built by the Knights of Rhodes. The fortress overlooking the sea has been converted into the Museum of Underwater Archeology, with a vast collection of amphoras, ancient glass, bronze, clay, iron

items dating as far back as the Bronze Age. Lunch with the group or on your own, at one of the many restaurants overlooking the international marina. In the afternoon, an unforgettable visit to a **Hamam - a traditional Turkish bath**, with an optional massage on the marble slab. After the bath and massage, relax with Turkish tea and you will feel reborn. Dinner with the group or on your own, at one of the seafood restaurants in the harbor. Accommodations in the Hotel. Free evening to rest or explore the city on your own.

June 6 – BODRUM - Ephesus - FOCA: Depart early in the morning to **Ephesus**, which is the best preserved and the most often visited of all ancient sites in Turkey. Followed by a visit to the House of the Virgin Mary. Have lunch with the group or on your own, in the ancient town of **Selcuk** and drive to the historic seacoast city of **FOCA** - one of the most important centers amongst the 12 Ion cities established at Aegean coasts by the ancient Ionians. Foça, besides its historical and archeological importance, is a mythological settlement whose name is mentioned in Homeros epic. Foça had lived Persia, Alexander the Great, Genevians and Ottoman eras! **Dinner with the group or on your own, at one of the seafood restaurants in the harbor accompanied by live music of the local Roman (Gypsy) musicians**

June 7 – FOCA: Enjoy an **all day boat trip to the scenic islands around Foca, swim in the peaceful Aegean sea**, watch the crew catch the fish of the day, cook it on the barbeque especially for you, and serve it for lunch on the boat. Dinner with the group or on your own, at one of the local typical restaurants. Accommodations in the Hotel. Free evening to rest or explore the city on your own.

June 8 – FOCA: Join Yuval Ron for an exclusive visit to **an**

authentic Romani (Gypsy) community. Hear their stories about the origins of their music, their family and their way of life. Witness or participate in an **exclusive Romani dance and music workshops with the local Gypsies** at their facilities. At night: **A feast for the senses: Join Yuval Ron for an exclusive dinner and a jam session with the local Roman (Gypsy) musicians and dancers.** (bring your musical instruments with you!). Accommodations in Hotel.

June 9 – FOCA – Izmir - ISTANBUL:

Depart early in the morning to Izmir and take a domestic air transfer (45 min.) to the great city of **Istanbul**. Lunch with the group or on your own in one of the typical restaurants of Istanbul. In the afternoon, rest at the hotel and prepare for the grand night: Dinner on your own in one of the many typical restaurants of Istanbul. In the evening: **The premier concert of the Yuval Ron Ensemble in Turkey in an interfaith Concert for Peace - "Hazan-Imam Concert"** - with local artists from the three Abrahamic religions sponsored by the Intercultural Dialogue Platform of the Journalists and Writers Foundation of Turkey, the Israeli Embassy, and the coalition of Turkish-Christian-Jewish communities of Istanbul. Accommodations in the Hotel.

June 10 – ISTANBUL: City tour to discover the Byzantine and Ottoman treasures of Istanbul: **Saint Sophia** – the church - turned mosque - turned museum, will take your breath away with the sheer architectural size of its interior and magnificent dome, the **Blue Mosque** - "Sultan Ahmet Mosque" - famous for its delicate blue ceramic tiles and it's 6 minarets and the **Topkapi Palace** (Imperial Residence of Ottoman Sultans between 15th and 19th Centuries, with its priceless world-class collection of jewelry and rare porcelain). Built on one of the seven hills of

Istanbul, this huge complex commands views of the **Sea of Marmara**, the **Bosphorus** and the **Golden Horn**. Lunch with the group or on our own, at one of the typical restaurants in the area. Dinner and Accommodations in the Hotel. At night, **accompany the Yuval Ron Ensemble for an exclusive jam session and party** with the **great gypsy master clarinet player Salim Sesler and his band of Romani musicians**.

Accommodations in the Hotel.

June 11 – ISTANBUL: It is time for **SHOPPING** at the spectacular 15th century **Grand Bazaar, a covered market with 4,000 shops displaying the best of the best of Turkey's' handicrafts, instruments, fabrics and antiques**. Lunch with the group or on your own at one of the many local restaurants. Followed by further explorations and shopping, or relax and rest at the hotel. Dinner with the group or on your own, at one of the many typical restaurants of Istanbul. Accommodations in the Hotel. In the evening join **Dervish Aziz and Yuval Ron for night of Sufi ritual with the Dervishes of the Jerahi Sufi Order**.

June 12 – ISTANBUL: Rest, explore the city on your own or do last minute shopping. Lunch with the group, or on your own, at one of the many local restaurants. In the afternoon rest in the hotel, or explore the city's amazing markets on your own. In the evening: Farewell party in the hotel terrace over looking the city's skyline and jam session with Yuval Ron, Joshkun Tamar and local gypsy musicians. Dinner and Accommodations at the Hotel.

June 13 – ISTANBUL: Transfer to airport and fly back home.

If you would like to stay in Istanbul for another day or two of sight seeing, shopping, music and dance workshops, etc,

please arrange that additional stay with the Tour Operator
Joshkun Tamar at email: joshkun@middleeastcamp.com

Note: Itinerary details may vary and revised by Tour
organizers at any time.