

I am Armenian. My parents brought me to the U.S. from Turkey in 1923 when I was 4 years old. All I knew about Turkey I learned from my parents. But I was anxious to see for myself. Throughout the years, when I looked at travel brochures, I found that no trip visited the city where I was born. I learned that Adana was a large, industrial city which had nothing to interest travelers. After my husband George died in 1990 I began to travel with girl friends—and eventually wore them all out! So I determined to travel by myself. NOW I found a trip to Turkey which visited my city; it was called IN the Steps of ST. Paul. In order to visit Ancient Antioch, the tour had to spend 2 nights in my big city. I planned to take that tour.

1995
Dee and I met at square dancing in 1994 and began to date. One afternoon in 1995 while we were playing backgammon, he told me that he and Mary always wanted to see the places where St. Paul began churches in Asia—which is modern Turkey—and he would like to go with me! I was thrilled—someone to go with me!!

I had already visited Istambul with its beautiful mosques and other attractions and Ephesus, the complete ancient Greek city, but there were 3 other places I must mention: Cappadocia, an area in central Turkey where whole cities were carved out of the soft stone to house churches, monasteries, houses, etc. And the painted pictures on the walls and ceilings are still bright!! In fact, modern people lived in some areas until forbidden by the Turkish government in 1924 as unsafe.....

Pergamon Museum which contains the gigantic Pergamon Greek Altar and Babylon's Throne Room and Processional Way and other Asiatic art—all of which are overwhelming!! (Look at the Pergamon Book on the table.).....Underground City inhabited by early Christians who farmed above ground. But when fierce marauders came to kill them and steal their food, they built this underground city where they could hide and survive for long periods of time. They had a well, air ducts, cattle, churches, meeting rooms, living room, etc. etc. This underground city could hold 20,00 people!!! (We saw only a small portion of it.)

Ireland '96

'97
Ancient Civilizations of Mexico covered so many far-flung places that we had to fly four times in order to see the ruins of the Maya Indians, the Toltecs, the Olmecs, the Zapotecs, the Aztecs, etc. etc. You have probably all seen Mexico before, so I will not go into detail.

Australia and New Zealand

'98

'98
Before our wedding, Dee and I wanted to plan a nice honeymoon. Dee wanted Britain (England, Scotland and Wales). And I wanted to tour France again. What did we choose? All of it!!! We spent two weeks in Britain, seeing so many lovely places—Stonehenge, Stratford on Avon, Edinburgh, the Highlands of Scotland, Wales, Oxford, and London; then took the Chunnel (the train that travels under the English Channel) to Paris. The bus tour took us westward to visit the Normandy landings of WWII, on to Mt. St. Michel, through the Loire Valley to see the castles, then south to Lourdes (which I had not seen before) and on to southern France. Then north to tour Paris. It was a marvelous trip in many, many ways!

Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal

99

99
The Tour of Central Europe included Germany, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Austria. The cities were Berlin, Munich, Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest, Prague and Vienna. (I had taken this same tour with a girlfriend in the past, but still found everything very interesting. Berlin had changed the most. NOW the Wall was down—and there was construction going on in every part of the city! Both times the most unforgettable sight was the tour of the concentration camp of Auschwitz in Poland.

The Holy Land

2000

2002
Earlier this year we visited Costa Rica—in Central America—and the thing that attracted us to this particular tour was that we stayed in ONE HOTEL all 8 days! No packing and unpacking! Costa Rica is a very small country but has a lot to offer the tourist: Volcanoes, Rain Forests, a Butterfly Farm, Boat rides through the jungle, Botanical Gardens, an Aerial Tramway over a forest, and Coffee Plantations. Costa Rica has an educated population because the country, after a revolution, decided NOT to have an army, and to spend the money on education instead. Now, when they have some kind of catastrophe—when a storm destroys a bridge, for example, they call on the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers who come and rebuild it in 2 days!!