

## Treasures of the Ancient World

*A Client Travel Report written by **Melissa Aldenhoven***

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Wow! I just went on the best holiday of my life which, I doubt, could ever be matched. New to tours I was a bit nervous signing up for the Treasures of the Ancient World but I am now totally converted.

During our ten day stay in Turkey where we visited the cream that was on offer from sites as diverse as ancient Troy, Roman ruins in Ephesus to rival Pompey, stunning early Christian mosaic strewn churches to Ottoman Palaces we were led by a guide who was across all eras, religions and tales involved. Our tour began in Istanbul, home of fantastic displays of the famous Hagia Sophia, Turkish tiles, Byzantine mosaics and an enormous subterranean Roman Cistern used as a set in "To Russia With Love". The little free time we could cram into our schedule was filled with spending up in the huge "Grand Bazaar" and "Spice Bazaar" where "Turkish Viagra" is amongst the delights to sample! We travelled across from Gallipoli to the central area of Cappadocia, home to the most astounding volcanic formations that were carved to become churches, refuges and entire underground townships and houses for people for centuries up until the 1960s. Weather prevented me from going on the much awaited balloon flight so I went instead to the sensational belly dancing and treated myself to an unforgettable Turkish Bath.

A new guide took over as we reached Egypt, the land where donkeys pulling carts tackle the semi trailers on the chaotic roads. We visited pyramids, temples and tombs galore from Cairo to Aswan, often just a step off from our Nile river boat.

At the end of the holiday I was concerned about my weight – my suitcase remaining below baggage allowance considering all the treasures I'd accumulated along the way – Turkish tiles, ceramics, belly dancing outfit, Egyptian papyrus, oodles of Egyptian jewellery AND my personal waistline after all that Turkish Delight, Baklava and delicious Egyptian food.

A fantastic tour! Not a minute wasted giving us a great introduction to fascinating Turkey and Egypt. Thank you Bunnik Tours for a great itinerary, wonderful guides, stress-free travel and an unbelievably good value experience.

