

MEDITERRANEAN

SIGGY AND HEATHER | TRIP AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN | WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2013

Turkey

Impatient drivers in a hurry
No law on any roads.
Horse and cart on a bloody highway?
Certainly keeps you on your toes.

The countryside is green and lush
A surprising rural show.
Aided by city's manic rush rush
This economy will never slow.

Turkey is such a strange enigma
Flags flying everywhere with pride.
Yet no interest in any sort of cleanliness
Rubbish thrown on every side.

Strewn water bottles everywhere
The plastic bag syndrome.
Just chuck it out anywhere will do
Just like you would at home?

Horizon plastered with high rise flats
Both incongruous and sad.
I refer to them as ditto residences
To Turks they aren't too bad.

Watering points can be found
All over the rural scene.
Its been through someone's system 9 times
"Please don't" your stomach screams.

Ottoman history lasted 600 years
Older than the Romans of old.
Yet Turkey was born only after WWI
After the Gallipoli campaign we are told.

So many things about this country
We cannot understand.
Their culture and their hate of Greeks
Are part of a fabled land.

We see the ruins and become awe struck
Even Istanbul is great.
We'll remember Turkey by many things
But will leave it to its fate.



Saw this on the side of a mountain as we were passing in our ferry back to Gallipoli. Tomorrow we should be on Greek soil.

Heather's thoughts on Turkey

We have spent about nine days in this country. Here are a few of my reflections.

It is not a country I will feel a desire to visit again. Istanbul, Pergamum, Ephesus and of course Gallipoli, were all memorable, but the spaces between were just that.

The housing stock is largely multi-story buildings that look really odd in the landscape. Many are fairly recently constructed but are really just an eyesore. The land around

and between is often awfully untidy and strewn with rubbish. The road system is reasonable but the traffic is chaotic.

I thought the countryside would be arid but it is very green.

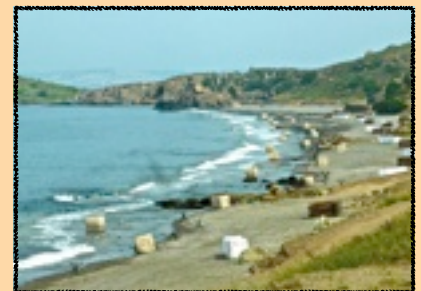
I have not felt unsafe but neither could I be myself - the place of women is very different here. I have learnt a lot about Islam that I knew little about and I understand more now about the tensions in this part of the world.



DITTO HOUSING It seems that once a particular design is in vogue this high rise or house is built not once or twice but thousands of times right next to each. All have exactly the same colour and features.



FERRY The trip through the centre of Canakkale to find the ferry terminal was pretty full on with cars and buses and pedestrians all trying to push in ahead of us. We were guided in by Emily (the GPS lady) and the sign above. Notice that the ferry looks remarkably like an Italian gondola. Love the spelling.



INVASION? We came upon a number of coves with pickets and large stone blocks and wondered if they were left over from the last invasion. We surmised it was part of up and coming war games (probably involving the tanks we heard yesterday.)