We are delighted to invite you to join us for Turkey: Conversations at the Crossroads. This trip is the sixth tour in our series, Among Women: An International Dialogue. This program is shared by Bryn Mawr and Smith Colleges and provides opportunities for our alumnae to connect with women around the world to explore issues that affect us all. Our program combines sightseeing with in-depth discussions and meetings with women in leadership positions in government, education, business, media, and the arts.

This trip will be led by Dr. Susan Buck Sutton. Susan is Senior Advisor for International Initiatives at Bryn Mawr College, and Emerita Associate Vice President of International Affairs and Chancellor’s Professor of Anthropology at Indiana University. While at Indiana University, she focused the internationalization efforts of its urban campus, IUPUI, toward a philosophy of international dialogue and collaboration. She was honored with the 2009 Andrew Heiskell Award from the Institute of International Education and the 2011 Senator Paul Simon Award from NAFSA. Sutton has published five books and over 60 articles on international education and the anthropology of modern Greece, including the recent Developing Strategic International Partnerships: Models for Initiating and Sustaining Innovative Institutional Linkages.

Sutton received her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College in 1969 and her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) – both in anthropology.
Wednesday, October 7
U.S. To Ankara
Depart the United States.

Thursday, October 8
Ankara
Arrive Ankara and transfer to the Divan Cukurhan, a 16th century caravanserai which has been recently converted into a boutique hotel. Enjoy a late afternoon visit to Atatürk founded mausoleum. The great square-pilled rectangular block dominates the new city, and is meant to echo Hittite architecture.

This evening meet for an introductory briefing and reception. R,D.

Friday, October 9
Ankara
After breakfast enjoy a morning meeting with the Aylin Nazhaka who establish HRM Consulting, now one of the most respected human resource companies in Turkey. Aylin later entered Turkish politics and was most recently awarded the Politician of the Year Award in 2014.

For lunch meet with Bryn Mawr alumna Marie-Henriette Gates, a professor of archaeology and Bronze Age specialist at Bilkent University in Ankara and her husband Charles Gates, who teaches at Bilkent’s archaeology department.

Enjoy an afternoon meeting with Flying Broom, a women’s organization which has been working continuously since 1996 to enhance gender equality consciousness, provide information and training to empower women, and contribute to the development of efficient policies for solving women’s problems stemming from inequality.

Before dinner meet with Ümmiye Koçak, a farm-worker who fell in love with the theatre and in 2002 formed the Arslanköy Women’s Theatre Group, an all-female theatre collective. Watch the documentary called “The Play”, which focuses on “Women's Outcry,” a play written by the theater group and based on the their own experiences, including kidnapping, forced marriage, and domestic abuse.

Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. B,L,D.

Saturday, October 10
Lake Van
After breakfast meet with Bryn Mawr alumna Marie-Henriette Gates to learn more about “blue-collar archaeology” and the role of women in it. Her talk will address the concept of art which has always been an active part of the human psyche.

Continue to the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations to enjoy this prize-winning museum’s impressive successive collection of Anatolian civilizations, from 6000 BC Çatalhüyük to Roman Ancyra.

After lunch fly from Ankara to Lake Van, located in eastern Turkey, a natural wonder set in the middle of a wild and unspoiled environment. For those who are up for a hike walk up Van Kalesi, a fortress balanced on a lone limestone ridge near the lake-shore.

Overnight at the Rescate Hotel. B,L,D.

Sunday, October 11
Lake Van
This morning visit the Nar Besin Pazari, a covered market whose main entrance is lined with shops selling cheeses, butter, yogurt, kaymak and honey brought in daily from villages outside the city.

Continue on to meet with women from the Van Women’s Association. The Association works on economic, social, individual, cultural, legal and political issues. This dynamic group were very involved in the aftermath of the Van earthquake in 2011 which left 604 dead and much of the area with a damaged infra-structure.

Take a ferry to the island of Akdamar where the 11th century king, Vaspurakan Gagik, of Christian Armenia built his palace and church.

Enjoy a traditional lunch on the island.

Return to Van and meet with women to talk about the impact of the Armenian genocide, when the government arrested more than 200 Armenian community leaders in
Constantinople.

Enjoy a cooking class and dinner that introduces us to the wonderful cuisine of the area. B,L,D.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
ISTANBUL**

Join thousands of members of the Van Breakfast Club who sit down for serious business - kahvalti, or breakfast. Enjoy glistening olives, slabs of honeycombs, blocks of cheese, and bowls and plates stacked with delicate sheets of fresh kaymak, Turkish-style clotted cream. Hot dishes are prepared in a kitchen at the back, and pide (flatbreads) and ekmek (crusty loaves) are brought in from a nearby bakery to order, so they always arrive at the table warm.

After lunch fly to Istanbul and transfer to the **Shangri-La Hotel.**

End the day with a lovely dinner at the rooftop restaurant of the **Arcadia Blue Hotel** for fabulous views of the Hagia Sophia. B,L,D.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
ISTANBUL**

Morning meeting with Elf Shafik, an outspoken columnist, speaker and academic, the author of eight novels and Turkey's most widely read woman writer. Safak blends Western and Eastern traditions of storytelling, bringing out the myriad stories of women, minorities, immigrants, subcultures, youth and global souls. She was awarded the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters in 2010.

Enjoy lunch at the **Modern Art Museum.**

Head over to KOC University to meet with Cigdem Kagıtçibasi, director of the Gender Studies Center. The center, one of the few in the country, has worked with UNESCO on several initiatives connected to rural women’s empowerment.

Stroll through the **Museum of Innocence** set in a 19th-century house on a quiet street in the Cukurcuma neighborhood. The museum, based on the novel “The Museum of Innocence”, which chronicles the efforts of haute-bourgeois Istanbulis to define themselves by Western values, a pursuit that continues today as Turkey as a whole takes a more Islamic turn.

Enjoy a lovely dinner at a private home. B,L,D.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
ISTANBUL**

Spend the morning with designer Gönüll Paksoy who is considered one of the doyennes of the Turkish fashion industry, known for her unique aesthetic and designs.

We have requested an afternoon meeting with Emine Erdogan, current first lady of Turkey.

Explore the Topkapi Palace, known as the palace of the Sultans. A city in itself, it occupies the first of Constantinople's seven hills, and was the site of the acropolis and the original nucleus of the Greek Town of Byzantium. Our tour this morning will be led by Hande Birkalan who did her PhD at Indiana University, taught at Byrn Mawr and is now professor of Anthropology and Folklore at Yeditepe University, Istanbul.

From here walk a short distance to a wonderful spa where the group will enjoy a real hammam experience. Get ready to have layers and layers of dead skin peel away as our bodies are pummeled and scrubbed. At the end, enjoy a 30-minute massage.

Enjoy dinner tonight at a private home. B,L,D.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
ISTANBUL**

This morning participate in a round-table discussion regarding President Erdogan's shocking remarks when in 2014 where he declared women are not equal to men and accused feminists of not understanding the special status that Islam attributes to mothers. Joining this discussion are several women including Hulya Gubahar who currently works as a lawyer in Istanbul. We will also invite Eren Keskin who has received multiple honors recognizing her work and currently works for an organization – **Initiation for Freedom of Expression** (IFEX) that provides legal aid for women who have been sexually harassed by civil servants including police and the military.

Sail up the beautiful Bosphoris for a local lunch overlooking the city of Istanbul.

After lunch meet with Zeynep Fadillioglu, an architect of the newly opened Sakirin Mosque - the first mosque designed by a woman who worked with a primarily female-based team of interior designers.
Head over to the pop-up **Souk Karakoy**, the perfect place to browse the products of and meet some of Istanbul’s local designers, curators, artists and more. You can find anything from vintage clothing, to handmade jewelry, to a locally roasted coffee. B,L,D.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**CAPPADOCIA**

After breakfast enjoy a morning meeting with **Sinem Kaya** founder of the on-line site, Global Motherhood, a space where moms can share their problems and solutions across cultures.

Take a mid-day flight to Cappadocia known for its surrealistic landscape, a strange area of multi-hued volcanic pillars and tortuous valleys sculpted by a millennia of rain and wind.

Spend the afternoon sightseeing at **Kaymakli**, an underground city is contained within the citadel of Kaymakli. The houses in the village are constructed around the nearly one hundred tunnels of the underground city. The tunnels are still used today as storage areas, stables, and cellars.

End the day exploring the captivating **Uchisar Fortress**, which is situated at the highest point of the region. The numerous rooms, steps, tunnel and galleries inside the castle are connected to each other. Highlights include, a climb to the top of the tall rock outcrop via tunnels to see three tombs top of the castle and to marvel the spectacular panoramic view.

Accommodations and dinner tonight at the **Museum Hotel**. B,L,D.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17**

**CAPPADOCIA**

Begin the morning exploring the many churches that were carved around the Goreme Valley and the Ihlara Gorge. The area was, at one time, covered in lava from Mt. Erciyes. Later, floods, rain and wind swept away at the table of lava, creating deep valleys and fissures: slopes turned into cones and columns.

After visiting a number of the rock churches, continue on to visit the cliff dwellings in the three valleys of Zelve, then drive to the village of Avanos famous for its beautiful old houses, pottery and onyx.

Enjoy a lovely lunch at a local restaurant.

End the afternoon with a debrief a chance to review the trip, share thoughts and ideas and relax! Farewell dinner tonight. B,L,D.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18**

**RETURN TO THE U.S.**

Morning return flight to Istanbul for onward flights home.

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**Trip Price: $7,480, Single room supplement: $1,880**

**Trip price includes** accommodations in hotels as outlined in the itinerary based on double occupancy, all meals listed, arrival and departure transfers if arriving on the group flights, all sightseeing and entrance fees, all special events, briefings and receptions as listed and the services of local guides. Dr. Susan Buck Sutton and Janet Moore from Distant Horizons will accompany the trip.

**Trip price does not include** international airfare to Ankara and from Istanbul; transfers at the beginning and end of the trip unless on designated group flights, airport departure taxes, passports and visa fees; drinks other than water with meals, personal insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation; and items of a purely personal nature.

**For additional information, a more detailed itinerary or any questions, contact Karen Siman-Tov at Distant Horizons at 1-800-333-1240 or KarenS@distant-horizons.com**

**PLEASE NOTE:** We plan on accepting the first 30 applications (fifteen from each of the two participating schools) on a first come, first serve basis. Additional applications will be accepted on a wait list specific for each individual school. A spot can only be held by completing the enclosed application form and returning it with a $1,000 deposit payable by check (credit cards are not accepted) and a legible copy of the first two pages of your passport.