

Marsha and I continue to travel fairly frequently, last year to the Baltic capitals of Riga and Talinn, Finland (and Lapland) and Norway with Overseas Adventure Travel. Most recently (April/May) we spent three weeks in Turkey, the Aegean Sea by small ship, and the Greek mainland. Turkey and Greece, besides having spawned Western Civilization (such as it is these days), are beautiful and fascinating. Turkey was particularly surprising. I think that most Americans envision Turkey as a Middle Eastern country, which it is not. It is definitely a First World country with immaculate roads and public facilities, among other indicia of 21st Century progress. Stradling two continents, Istanbul is among the World's great cities, and historic Ephesus on the Aegean has existed in some form since 3000 BCE (the ruins are mainly Roman from early-AD). Fewer travelers make it to Cappadocia, which is unique on earth and endlessly fascinating, both geologically and historically. We all know the phrase "whirling dervish," but in Cappadocia you can actually watch two centuries-old Whirling Dervishes.



