



The famous Blue Mosque in Istanbul (above) and (right) women making flatbread in 40C heat in Fevzipasa.



has been restored to its original splendour and was a highlight of my stay.

Perhaps one of the best-known locations in Istanbul is the Grand Bazaar. To really understand and appreciate its scope, you have to experience it. With more than 4,000 stores, and 60 streets, I thought I was going to get lost. The shop vendors are experts at sweet talk and sweet tea. I had many walk beside me for some distance, entreating me to go back. They were forceful but friendly. Haggling is absolutely expected, but the key for me was to buy very little on impulse.

My prize purchase was a beauti-

ful, hand-made backgammon board, bought for less than a third of the asking price because I had walked away and returned.

Chapter 7: Travel

Weekend travel is a truly fun part of being on the dig. Turkey has an amazing array of fantastic sights and sites to see.

We would go to some historically significant site (or the ocean beach, for some) anywhere from one to four or five hours away. The local transport is the dolmus, a small, usually not air-conditioned bus driven by fearless operators. We learned very quickly

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