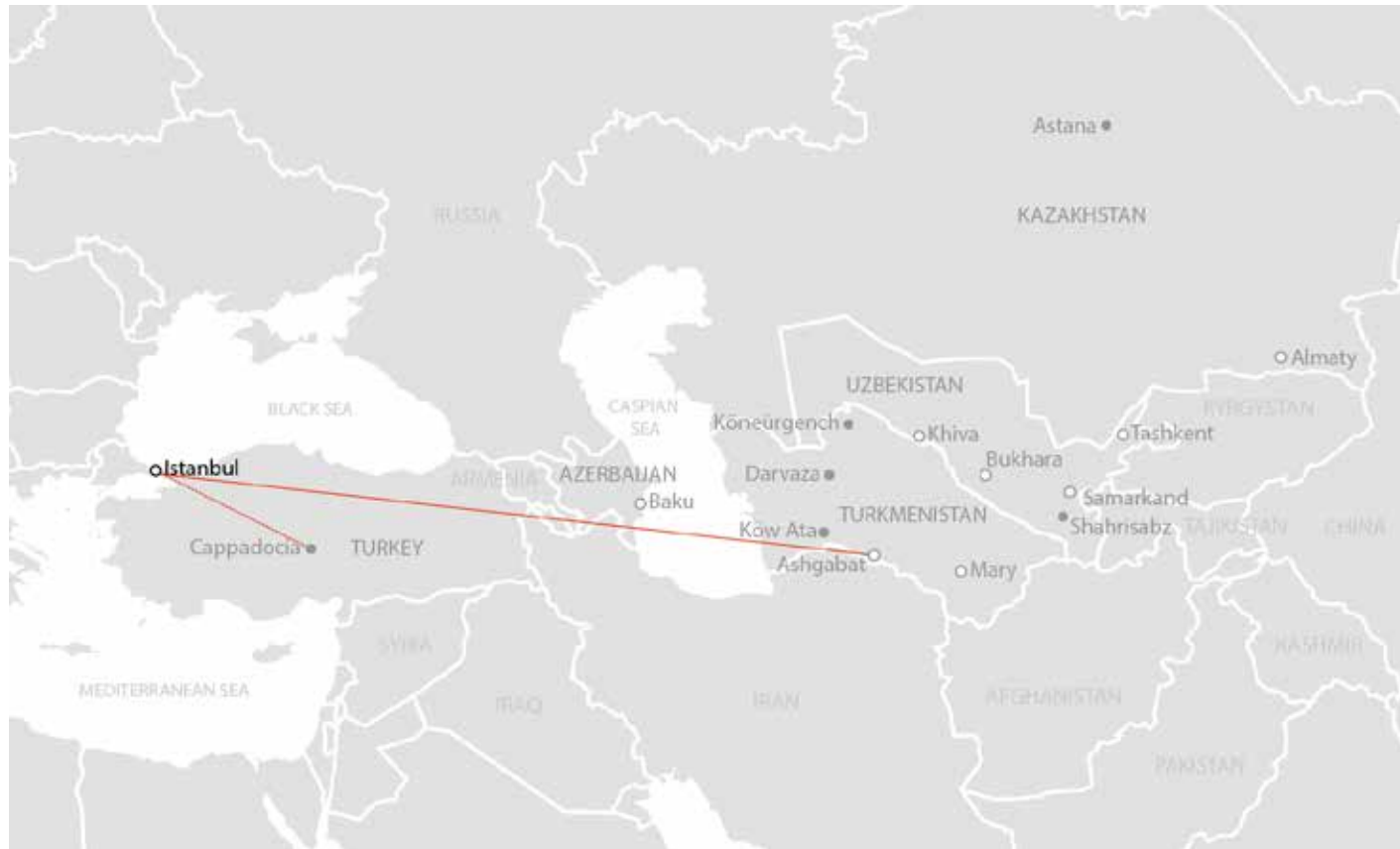


The Destination: Why these cities?

Access more information about each city by **mousing over** or **clicking** on its name.



ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The final respite on the “silk road” -- and our starting point -- is Istanbul. Geographically it occupies a strategic location which has made it somewhat of a target for marauding armies over the centuries. It has also endowed the city with a cultural and physical diversity that makes it a “magical meeting place of East and West”.

The Greek, Roman, Venetian, Persian, Byzantine and most recently the Ottoman Empire have all called Istanbul home. While traditionally conquering armies would ransack a city, the Byzantines and subsequently Ottoman's changed this pattern by embellishing existing buildings and therefore enabling the current skyline. The physical reminders of these periods can be seen throughout the city and are particularly relevant to our field of inquiry.

Relevant Architecture: Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Saray and the Mosque of Sokullu Mehmed Pasha, Bayezid II Mosque, Sulimiye Mosque