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## **Explore Off-the-beaten-track Turkey, Ottoman Style**

Follow in the footsteps of fabled Ottoman traveller, sociologist and historian Evliya Celebi, Turkey's answer to Marco Polo. The 17<sup>th</sup>-century adventurer's 600-km horseback pilgrimage to Mecca took in ancient cities, stunning natural scenery and tiny, out-of-the-way villages. To celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth, Kate Clow, author of the *Lycian Way*, and Ottoman historian Caroline Finkel are releasing a guidebook based on their recent reenactment of a journey originally taken by Celebi.

Turkey's first long-distance walking and riding route, *The Evliya Celebi Way*, runs from the village of *Hersek* on the southern shores of the Sea of Marmara to *Simav* in the province of *Kutahya*. The guide provides fascinating insight into a traditional way of life, untouched for generations in places, and encourages tourists to explore a part of the country little known.

*The Evliya Celebi Way* contains history, first-hand accounts, maps and GPS coordinates and is due to be published later this month.

### **Press Contacts:**

Jill Guest/Jo Marsh – [jill@wavemediapartners.com](mailto:jill@wavemediapartners.com)/Tel: 020 7436 8009