

Turkey Tour

Istanbul – Çanakkale – Troya – Gallipoli – Pergamon –
Ephesus – Kuşadası – Pamukkale –
Cappadocia – Ankara

ITINERARY

DAY 1 – Istanbul

Arrive at Istanbul Airport at 0500 and transfer to your hotel. Check in is at 2pm but we will try to check in earlier. You'll be free for the rest of the day you can explore the vicinity of the hotel and try Turkish coffee at a local cafe.

Please Note; If you are not arriving with the group at 0500 that there will be an extra



transfer fee of USD30 per person Overnight Istanbul .

DAY 2 – Istanbul Old City

After breakfast, we'll start our Istanbul tour at 08:45 am. First, we will visit the great **Hagia Sofia** (Saint Sophia) which was built by the emperor Justinian in the 6th century AD as a church and was later converted into a mosque. Next, we will visit the **Topkapi Palace**, a giant walled complex from where Ottoman sultans ruled their great empire for more than 420 years.

Afterward, we will visit the **Blue Mosque** (Sultanahmet Mosque) a 17th century Ottoman mosque famous for its six minarets and magnificent interior with blue tiles.

Then, we'll explore the **Hippodrome Square** which was used as a meeting place and for chariot races during the Byzantine period. Here, we will see the Serpent Column brought from Delphi, the Egyptian Obelisk, and the German Fountain of Wilhelm

II. Finally, we'll visit the **Grand Bazaar**, one of the biggest and oldest markets in the world, home to more than 4000 shops full of hidden treasures and authentic items.

Bosphorus Hotel in **Istanbul**. (Breakfast)



DAY 3 – Gallipoli Battlefields – Çanakkale

Today, we will depart early for Çanakkale. Pick-up will be between 6:15 am - 6:45 am from your hotel. We will drive to the

Gallipoli Peninsula for about 4 hours to visit one of the most important sites of World War I. Gallipoli is home to the remains of 500,000 soldiers and is one of Turkey's most important war memorials. We will visit the site of the **Battle of Gallipoli**, including the Lone Pine Australian Memorial, Chunuk Bair Atatürk Monument, Anzac Cove, and the Johnston's Jolly Cemetery.

At the end of the tour, we'll drive to Çanakkale.

Overnight stay in MD Barbaros *Hotel* in **Çanakkale**. (Breakfast - Dinner)

DAY 4 – Troy – Pergamon – Acropolis – Kuşadası

After breakfast, we'll head to the ancient city of **Troia** or Troy, the real-life location of the legendary Trojan War described in Homer's Iliad. Next, we will be visiting the legendary **Pergamon**, the capital of the Kingdom of Pergamon Kings in 282-133 BC. We will visit the **Acropolis**, which is the administrative center of the city, the Temple of Zeus, Dionysus, Athena, Demeter, and the famous Pergamon Library of 200,000 rolls. The Altar of Zeus, excavated during the Pergamon (Bergama) excavations, is now on display at the Pergamonmuseum in Berlin. The Great **Theatre of Pergamon** here is the world's steepest theater and it could entertain up to 10,000 spectators in ancient times. We will also visit the **Gymnasium** and the **Red Basilica** (St. John's Church), which is one of the sites of the Seven Churches of Revelation. After our visits, we'll drive back to Kuşadası.

Accommodation in Ilayda Avantgarde Hotel in **Kuşadası**. (Breakfast - Dinner)

DAY 5 – Ephesus – House of the Virgin Mary – Şirince Village – Kuşadası

Today, we'll immerse ourselves in history in **Ephesus**, the most beautiful ancient city of the **Ionian** region. After seeing the **Temple of Artemis**, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, we will visit the ancient city of Ephesus. You will feel the mystical atmosphere of Ephesus as you walk on **Curetes Street** and see the ruins of the 25,000-capacity Grand Theater, the State Agora, the magnificent **Celsus Library**, the Odeon, Temesos, Prytaneion, Magnesia Gate, Grotto of the Seven Sleepers, and the **Harbour of Ephesus**. Our next stop will be the **House of the Virgin Mary**, a Christian pilgrimage site where the Virgin Mary spent her last years.

Finally, we will visit the former Greek village of **Şirince**, famous for its fruit wines. Carpet weaving has long traditions in Turkey and in this carpet village, we'll learn how the carpets are made by hand and what determines their value.

End of the tour. Accommodation in Ilayda Avantgarde Hotel in **Kuşadası**. (Breakfast - Dinner)



DAY 6 – Kuşadası – Pamukkale

After breakfast, visit the magnificent Hierapolis*, an ancient city that was believed by the Greeks to have been founded by the god Apollo. It was famed for its sacred hot springs, whose vapors were associated with Pluto, God of the underworld. Hierapolis was also mentioned by Paul in his Letter to Colossians in the Bible. Today, Hierapolis is a World Heritage Site. We will also have the opportunity to swim in the thermal pools, with views of ancient artifacts and the spectacular white terraces of the Pamukkale lime cascade. The extraordinary terraces here are created when water from the hot springs loses carbon dioxide as it flows down the slopes, leaving deposits of limestone. The layers of white calcium carbonate, built up in steps on the plateau, gave the site the name Pamukkale ("cotton castle"). Afterwards, we continue our drive to Selcuk to visit the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Then, continue to Izmir for our overnight stay.

Overnight: **Kaya Thermal, Izmir (2 nights) (B, D)**

DAY 7 – Via Ancient Silk Road Route – Konya – Cappadocia

After breakfast, we will drive to Cappadocia via the ancient Silk Road route. On the way, we'll give a break in the city of Konya to have lunch and visit the **Mevlana Museum** which houses the tomb of the great 13th-century Persian poet and founder of the **Order of the Whirling Dervishes**, Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Balkhi, also known as **Rumi**, and the **Alaeddin Mosque**, which was built on Alaeddin Hill during the Seljuk period. Along the ancient Silk Road, we will also visit the **Sultanhami Caravanserai**.

After our visits, we will continue on our way to Cappadocia. Dinner and accommodation in MDC Hotel in **Cappadocia**. (Breakfast - Dinner)

DAY 8 – Cappadocia Göreme, Kaymaklı Underground City, Monks Valley

Today, we will start our tour with a visit to **Kaymaklı Underground City** and **Göreme Open Air Museum**, which is home to a large monastery complex with dozens of monasteries, each of which has its church, offering some of the best examples of Byzantine art. The churches carved into the rock feature paintings and frescoes from the tenth to the

thirteenth century, whose colors still retain their original freshness. Next, we will visit **Paşabağı Valley** located on a vineyard on Zelve road. Some of the mushroom-shaped rock formations here are several meters high. Fairy chimneys shaped by erosion for many years were used as houses by various religious groups, therefore it is also known as the **Monks Valley**. Afterward, we will visit the **Devrent Valley**, which offers a reddish moon view looks like a movie set, and is famous for its rock formations resembling different animal figures.

End of the tour. Return to our hotel. Overnight stay MDC Hotel in **Cappadocia. (Breakfast - Dinner)**

*Optional **Turkish Folklore Night** featuring, traditional folklore and belly dancing shows in a cave music hall. (extra cost)

DAY 9 – Ankara – Istanbul

After breakfast, we will depart early for Ankara (approx. 330 km,) the capital of Turkey. On arrival, we will **Anıtkabir** also known as the **Mausoleum of Atatürk**, the final resting place of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the leader of the Turkish War of Independence and the founder of the Republic of Turkey. After this visit, we’ll have time to lunch in a local restaurant and depart for Istanbul by vehicle (approx. 440 km).

Arrival and overnight stay in Sirkeci Mansion Hotel in **Istanbul. (Breakfast)**

Day 10 – Istanbul – Departure

Free morning to do that last minute shopping before checking out of our hotel at 12pm. Our luggage will be placed in storage for the afternoon whilst we take a 3 hour sail on the waterway, including Turkish wine, mixed cheese dish with mixed fruits and nuts. A perfect farewell of our magical Turkish tour. After the sail we will collect our luggage and depart to the airport for our 2050 flight to Yerevan via Athens. Please note that we do not arrive into Yerevan until 0300 on the 31st May, our accommodation has been booked for the night of the 30th so that we can check in on arrival rest up before enjoying your free time in Yerevan.

(Breakfast)

Above tour rates reflect current (August 2022) fuel prices, admission fees to the sites / museums, local taxes, service fees & EUR / USD exchange rates. In the event of any significant alterations, pricing is subject to changes.

PRICE 4 STAR HOTELS		
	Per Person in Double -	Single Room
7 -12	AUD4980	TBA

Proposed HOTELS /		
Cit y	Nig ht	Hote ls
Istanbul	3	Euro Stars Old City 4* / Port Bosphorus 4* www.portbosporushotel.com / www.euoplazahotel.com
Canakkale	1	MD Barbaros (Special Class) / Akol 4* www.mdbarbaroshotel.com
Kusadasi	2	Ilayda Avangarde 4* / Dericci 4* www.ilaydaavangarde.com / www.dericcihotel.com /
Pamukkale	1	Adem Pira 5* / Colossae Thermal 5* www.adempirahotel.com / www.colossaehotel.com
Cappadocia	2	Utopia Cave / MDC Cave www.utopiacave.com / www.mdchotel.com

Note; Sample hotels are confirmed on the date of booking in case of availability. Otherwise, reservations are made in similar hotels.

Prices Include

- Transfer / Istanbul Airport – Hotel – Istanbul Airport / 4 ways (Extra transfer for 2 pax USD30 pp)
 - 9-nights hotel accommodation with daily breakfast
 - 6 Dinners – 9 Breakfast – 2 lunches
 - All tours as per the itinerary
 - Entrance fees, as per the itinerary
 - Experienced and professional English tour guide
 - Private air-conditioned and non-smoking vehicles with experienced drivers.
 - 3 hour Shopping tour at the Grand Bazaar on our last morning before boarding our private yacht to sail the Bosphorus including lunch and wine
- Dining and sightseeing in the wonderful view of the Bosphorus of Istanbul will be a great finale.

(Menu : Fish or Meat Ball or Chicken, Season Salad, cold appetizer plate, hot appetizer plate, season fruit, cheese, Per person 2 Glass of wine, or 2 beer, and 2 glass soft beverages.

Prices Exclude

- Personal expenses
- Lunch and beverages in Dinners
- Travel insurance (Highly recommended)
- Optional events.
- Tips for guide and Driver. (Approximate er person 30 -40 USD)

Remarks

- Travel health insurance is mandatory.
- Sample hotels are confirmed on the date of booking in case of availability. Otherwise, similar hotels are booked.

- In the event of bad weather, time scarcity, traffic jams, and similar situations, the Guide may make changes in the tour program.
- The locations given in the itinerary can be changed with other places if they are closed.
- During the tours, you will be walking approximately 2 km every day on uneven and cobblestone surfaces, inclines, and steps.
- You are required to wear comfortable clothing, flat walking shoes, a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. in summer months and raincoat, warm clothes, winter walking shoes, umbrella, etc. in winter.
- The order of the sites visited may change to avoid the crowds.