

Affordable Turkey (Istanbul, Izmir, Ephesus, Pergamon, Cappadocia and Antalya Tours)

Tour Days: 10

Tour Departure From : Istanbul
Tour Departure End : Istanbul

Tour Departure: Departure days are every Mondays around the year

Tour Overview : 4 nights Istanbul, 2 nights Izmir, 2 nights Antalya, 1 night Cappadocia hotel with affordable optional tours.

- ** Our group tours can be operated with a minimum of 2 people
- ** On Mondays, when St. Sophia is closed, we visit the Chora Church, famed for its mosaics
- ** On Tuesdays, when Topkapi Palace is closed, this tour is not offered

Tour Highlights

- Virgin Mary's House, Ephesus, Temple of Artemis
- Optional Pergamon tour with lunch, includes Acropolis and Asclepion
- · Antalya panoromic city tour
- Ankara Anatolian Civilization Museum, Mausoleum of Ataturk, Kaymakli Underground City
- Optional Balloon tour in Cappadocia, Devrent Valley, Pasabagi (Monk's Valley), Avanos, Goreme Open Air Museum,
- Optional Bosphorus and Asia tour in Istanbul with lunch and in the evening optional Istanbul by night tour with dinner

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Istanbul Arrival

Arrival to Istanbul airport. Meet and transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 2: Istanbul

Full day Historical Istanbul Tour; visit the St. Sophia Museum (built in 6th century, once was the largest Christian Church in the world), the Topkapi Palace (Imperial Residence of Ottoman Sultans, with displays of priceless World-class collections of artifacts, jewelry and rare porcelain), the Blue Mosque (unique with its 6 minarets, and famous for its blue Iznik tiles), the Hippodrome Square where ancient chariot races were held, and then visit the world famous Grand Covered Bazaar. Finally, enjoy a display on Turkish handicrafts. Overnight in Istanbul. (B, L)

Day 3: Istanbul - Izmir - Ephesus - Izmir

Transfer to Istanbul airport for your flight to Izmir. Izmir arrival. Meet and leave for Ephesus, the veritable cradle of early Christianity. Visit the Shrine of The Virgin Mary where she supposedly spent her later days. Proceed to Ephesus and see the spectacular ruins from the period of St. Paul, some of which have only recently been excavated. See the Odeon, the Bouleterion, Fountains, the Temples, the Brothel, the Library, the Agoras, the Great Theatre, the Roman Baths, the Gymnasiums. After lunch visit the Temple Of Artemis (one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world). Finally, enjoy a

display on Turkish handicrafts. Overnight in Izmir. (B, L)

Day 4: Izmir

Free day at leisure. Overnight in Izmir. (B)

Optional: Full day Pergamon Tour with lunch

Drive to Pergamon. Visit the Acropolis, the Temple Of Athena, the famous Library, the Royal Palaces, the Temple Of Trojan, the steepest Theatre of the world, the Temple Of Dionysos, the Altar Of Zeus (Seat of Satan), and the view of the Red Basilica (St. John's church). Lunch in town. Visit the ruins of Asclepion (Medical Center of the ancient world). Finally, enjoy a display on Turkish handicrafts. (L)

Per Person Group Rate: 80.-Euro

Day 5: Izmir - Antalya

After breakfast transfer to Izmir airport for your flight to Antalya. Antalya arrival, meet and after panoramic city tour, proceed to your hotel for dinner and overnight stay. (B, D)

Day 6: Antalya

Free day at leisure. Overnight in Antalya. (B, D)

Day 7: Antalya - Ankara - Cappadocia

Early morning transfer to Antalya airport for your flight to Ankara. Ankara arrival morning visit to the Anatolian Civilizations Museum at which numerous remnants from Stone Age, Neolithic Age, Hittites, Urartians, Phrygians and many others are on display; Mausoleum of Ataturk, the burial place of the national hero who founded modern Republic of Turkey. Then continue on to Cappadocia. Overnight Cappadocia. (B, L, D)

Day 8 : Cappadocia - Kayseri - Istanbul

Optional balloon tour. Meet at the hotel lobby in the morning and visit to Devrent Valley to see the unique fairy chimneys. Drive to Pasabagi (Monks Valley) to see the most interesting mushroom shaped pinnacles. Drive to Avanos which is known for the pottery, a craft dating back to the Hittite period. The red clay which is worked by local craftsmen comes from the residue in the Kizilirmak river, the longest river of Turkey. In the afternoon, visit Goreme Open Air Museum (Dark Church is excluded; entrance requires additional admission fee) to visit the churches where the remains of rock-cut churches and Christian settlements date back hundreds of years. Various panoramic viewpoints of castles and fairy chimneys such as Esentepe for Goreme valley, Uchisar and its castle, Pigeon Valley. Then to Kaymakli (or Ozkonak) Underground City, the place where early Christians hid from persecutors. Transfer to the airport in Kayseri or Nevsehir. After, transfer to the airport in Kayseri for your flight to Istanbul. Arrival in Istanbul, meet and transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul. (B, L).

Optional: Balloon Tour

Pick up from the hotel roughly one hour before the sunrise (App. 05:00 o'clock) and transfer to the base. After serving tea, coffee and cookies while waiting for the other participants proceed to the take-off field designated for that day. After a safety briefing delivered by the pilot, climb in to the baskets and take off. Rise to the altitudes of several hundred meters to have a good view of the area and drift through the valleys and canyons for some 60 minutes. On landing, have a traditional celebration party with champagne and cakes. Thereafter transfer back to the hotel.

Per Person Group Rate: 150.-Euro

Day 9: Istanbul

Free day at leisure. Overnight in Istanbul. (B)

Optional: Full day Bosphorus and Asia Tour

Visit the Egyptian Spice Market, and then embark on a Bosphorus Boat Tour viewing the beauty of the European and Asian shorelines on either side. After lunch, visit the Palace of Beylerbeyi on the shore of the Bosphorus which is the most elegant of the late Ottoman places. Finally, enjoy a display on Turkish handicrafts. (L)

Per Person Group Rate: 80.-Euro

(On Mondays and Thursdays, Palace of Beylerbeyi is closed.)

Optional: Istanbul by Night Tour

Pick up from hotel and proceed to watch the Turkish Night Show with dinner. Drop off at your hotel after the tour. (D)

Per Person Group Rate : 70.-Euro

Day 10 : Istanbul Departure

Transfer to Istanbul airport per your departure time. End of our services. (B)

Tour Inclusions

- 9 nights hotel accommodation at the above mentioned hotel
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary
- All escorted transfers
- 9 breakfast, 4 lunch, 3 dinner
- Transportation by A/C vehicle
- English speaking government licenced professional tour guide
- All entry fees to the sites & museums
- · Service charges & local taxes

Tour Excludes

- All flights
- All drinks and any other meals which are not mentioned in the itinerary
- All personal expenses
- Optional daily excursions
- Turkish Visa Fee
- Tips to the tour guide and driver
- Everything which is not particularly mentioned in "Including" section

Tour Map:

