



TRAVELING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Explore Istanbul & Cappadocia

7-Day, 6-Night Journey

Istanbul, Cappadocia

Embark on a captivating seven-day odyssey through Turkey's most treasured attractions and landscapes. Begin your adventure in the historic heart of Istanbul, where the grandeur of Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque awaits. Wander through the bustling corridors of the historic Grand Bazaar, and immerse yourself in the city's rich tapestry of history and culture.

Ascend to the skies in a colorful hot air balloon and drift over Cappadocia's otherworldly terrain. Explore the towering fairy chimneys and ancient rock-hewn churches. The Göreme Open-Air Museum invites you to step back in time, amidst frescoed sanctuaries carved into the earth.

Join us for an unforgettable expedition of an exploration amidst the seamless blend of natural wonders and architectural marvels.



A boat trip on Bosphorus Strait is a must



Hagia Sophia Mosque was a church built by Roman Empire in 537 AD



Harem of Topkapi was the residence of the Sultan, wives, concubines and extended family



4000 shops in Grand Bazaar



Cappadocia Cave Dwellings



Hot Air Balloon Flight

Inclusions

- ▶ Private Airport Transfers
- ▶ Hotel Accommodations
- ▶ Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals
(See tour plan for details)
- ▶ English-speaking Local Guide
- ▶ Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

Exclusions

- ▶ International Airfare
- ▶ Istanbul - Cappadocia Airfare
- ▶ Hotel Tourism Fee
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee
- ▶ Gratuity
- ▶ Personal Expenses

Nearby Airports

Istanbul - Istanbul Airport (IST)

Cappadocia - Nevsehir Kapadokya Airport (NAV)

Itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVE ISTANBUL (IST)

Upon arrival into **Istanbul**, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

[3 nights in **Istanbul**. Meals: None]

DAY 2: ISTANBUL OLD CITY TOUR

Discover the best of Historic Areas of Istanbul (UNESCO World Heritage Site) on **this guided group tour** (9 hours @8am).



- **Hagia Sophia** (admission is included): This timeless mosque was the pride and glory of Byzantine architecture. Take in the structure's imposing façade matched only by the grandeur of its towering vaulted ceilings within.
- **Blue Mosque**: Also known as **Sultan Ahmed Mosque** that is famous for its architecture as well as its iconic blue tiles.
- **Hippodrome and Obelisks**: also known as **Sultanahmet Square** where chariot races were held.
- **Topkapi Palace**: witness the opulent and powerful history of the Ottoman sultans, showcasing magnificent architecture and priceless treasures (admission is included) - closed on Tuesdays.
- **Hagia Irene Museum** in Topkapi Palace's courtyard: offers a unique glimpse into Byzantine history and architecture (Admission is included).
- **Harem in Topkapi Palace**: offers an intimate look at the lavish and intricate design of the Ottoman royalty's private lives (admission is included).
- **Grand Bazaar**: the lively market dotted with over 4000 shops filled with traditional Turkish handicrafts. A place where visitors can immerse themselves in the lively atmosphere and hunt for unique souvenirs amid the echoes of centuries-old trade.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 3: ISTANBUL TWO CONTINENTS TOUR WITH BOSPHOROUS CRUISE

After breakfast, join the **Istanbul Two Continents Tour** (9 hours @8am, group).

- **Dolmabahçe Palace** (interior visit): An opulent 19th-century Ottoman Sultans' palace boasting an exquisite blend of various European architectural styles.
- **The Bridge**: a scenic drive across this intercontinental suspension bridge between Europe and Asia over the Bosphorus strait.
- **Asian Hill (Çamlıca Hill)**: The highest point in Istanbul, Çamlıca Hill provides panoramic views of the city and the Bosphorus Strait.
- **Pierre Loti Hill**: Named after the famous French novelist, this hill offers a stunning vista of the Golden Horn.
- Fly over by **Cable Car**: The Eyüp-Pierre Loti cable car line provides a memorable ride with scenic views of the Golden Horn and the historic peninsula of Istanbul.
- **City Walls**: The ancient Walls of Constantinople, now known as the Istanbul City Walls, protected the city against numerous sieges.
- **Lunch on the Boat**: Enjoy a delightful lunch and admire Istanbul's skyline and historical landmarks from the water.
- **Golden Horn**: cruise on this historic inlet of the Bosphorus which is a natural harbor and supported the trading center for centuries. See Rumeli Fortress, Leander's Tower from the water.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

DAY 4: ISTANBUL - CAPPADOCIA

Transfer to the airport and fly to **Cappadocia** this morning (one hour flight, not included). Airport - hotel transfer.

The rest of the day is free.

[3 nights in **Cappadocia**. Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 5: NORTHERN CAPPADOCIA (RED) EXCURSION

This small group tour follows the 'Red Route', taking in the most-photographed sights of **North Cappadocia**. (6-7 hours @9:30am).

Visit ancient rock-hewn churches, towering fairy chimneys, and karst caves that dot the landscape of Cappadocia, making for some unforgettable photo opportunities.

Marvel at the fairy chimneys of **Love Valley** and **Monk Valley**. Visit **Uchisar Castle** and **Imagination Valley**, and explore the UNESCO-listed **Goreme Open-Air Museum**.

Finally, visit the pottery-making town of **Avanos** and maybe even have a go on the potter's wheel yourself.

[Meals: Breakfast]

① **Add-on:** Enjoy an **early morning hot air balloon** excursion over Cappadocia including transfer (2.5 hours). Your colorful balloon glides silently over the sublime hills and valleys of Cappadocia giving a true sense of the region's fairytale terrain.

DAY 6: SOUTHERN CAPPADOCIA (GREEN) EXCURSION

Explore a lush part of the **southern Cappadocia region** on this small-group day tour. (7-8 hours @9:30am).

Take a gentle hike in the stunning canyon of the **Ihlara Valley**. Monks (7th and 11th century) settled in the valley and carved their houses, churches, and monasteries directly from the soft volcanic rock of the canyon walls. These structures are adorned with frescoes that reflect a range of artistic influences, including Persian and Syrian styles. Walk along the trails and explore the rich tapestry of nature and history it offers.

Have lunch (at your own cost) by the river and check out the ancient **Selime Monastery** and the amazing **Kaymakli Underground City**.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 7: DEPART TURKEY VIA ISTANBUL

After breakfast, transfer to **Nevsehir** airport to fly to Istanbul airport for your flight home.

[Meals: Breakfast]

*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.

*The duration and start time of excursions are subject to change without prior notice.

Hotels

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

