



TRAVELING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

# Best of Turkey

## 13-Day, 12-Night Journey

*Izmir, Ephesus, Pamukkale, Antalya, Konya, Cappadocia, Ankara, Istanbul*

On this in-depth experience through Turkey you will visit many famous sites where history happened, from the ancient Ruins of Ephesus to the fairy-tale landscape of Cappadocia and the famous Pamukkale Hot Springs; with the tour ending in amazing Istanbul and its grand palaces and magnificent mosques.

① Private Tour Itinerary can be adjusted for shorter or longer trip.



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



4000 shops in the Grand Bazaar



Celsus Library, Ephesus



Pamukkale Hot Spring



Antalya Harbor, Turkey



Hot Air Balloons

## Inclusions

- Private Airport Transfers
- Hotel Accommodations
- Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals  
(See tour plan for details)
- Guided Excursions with English-speaking

### Local Guide

- Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

## Exclusions

- International Airfare
- Domestic Airfare within Turkey
- Hotel Tourism Fee
- Travel Insurance
- Medical Expenses
- Visa Fee
- Gratuity
- Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airports

Istanbul - Istanbul International Airport (IST)

Izmir – Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB)

Cappadocia - Nevsehir Kapadokya Airport (NAV)

## Itinerary

### DAY 1: ARRIVE IZMIR

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

[2 nights in **Kusadasi**. Meals: None]

\*Hotel check-in time is generally 3 pm or later. If your flight arrives in the early morning (e.g. midnight or 7 am) we suggest you add a pre-tour hotel night during booking for a well-deserved rest before starting your tour.

### DAY 2: KUSADASI | ANCIENT EPHEBUS AND CITY TOUR

After breakfast proceed to your Ephesus tour.

Visit the ruins in **Ephesus** (including **Celsus Library**), Virgin Mary House, Isa Bey Mosque, St. John Basilica, Selcuk Castle, Artemis Tempel, **Local Winery** (wine tasting) & **Carpet weaving school**.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### DAY 3: PAMUKKALE | PAMUKKALE HOT SPRING AND CITY TOUR

After breakfast proceed to **Pamukkale**.



Visit the **Leather Production Center** and **Train Museum** in Çamlık. Visit **Pamukkale Hot Springs** and travertines; terraces of mineral carbonates left by flowing water. Enjoy a therapeutic hot spring soak. These hot springs have been used as a spa since the 2nd century BC. Visit ancient artifacts at **Hierapolis** Ancient City. Hierapolis-Pamukkale is an UNESCO World Heritage Site.  
[1 night in Pamukkale. Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 4: PAMUKKALE – ANTALAY | ANTALAY OLD TOWN**

After breakfast, enjoy hot springs in the hotel.  
Late morning, check-out and travel to **Antalya** (about 3 - 3.5 hours drive).  
Arrive **Antalya** and visit the **Old Town**.  
[2 nights in Antalya. Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 5: ANCIENT PERGE EXCUSION AND CABLE CAR RIDE**

Excursion to **Perge**, one of the largest ancient cities in the Pamphylia region. Enter by passing through the arch of the Roman Gate to be greeted by an amphitheater, the Hellenistic Gate (quite well preserved) and richly decorated remains of the city wall, and much more.  
Ride the **Cable Car** to see a spectacular skyline of Antalya and enjoy fresh air with the scent of pine trees.  
[Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 6: KONYA EXCUSION & WHIRLING DERVISHES**

Check-out and drive to **Cappadocia** (6.5 hours by car). Enroute stop at **Konya** to explore famous local foods. Visit **Konya Mevlana Museum** - school of whirling dervishes.  
[3 nights in Cappadocia. Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 7: HOT AIR BALLOON, 'RED ROUTE' (NORTH) CAPPADOCIA EXCURSION**

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.  
Continue with a tour that 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]

## DAY 8: 'GREEN ROUTE' (SOUTH) CAPPADOCIA EXCURSION

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

Take a gentle hike in the stunning canyon of the **Ihlara Valley**. Monks (7th and 11<sup>th</sup> 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 by the river and check out the ancient **Selime Monastery** and the amazing **Kaymakli Underground City**.

[Meals: Breakfast]

## DAY 9: ANKARA CITY TOUR

After breakfast, check-out and drive to Ankara (about 3.5 hours). On arrival, proceed for a **city tour of Ankara** visiting several historic sites. Explore the **Museum of Anatolian Civilizations**. Discover remains from the Stone and Neolithic ages and venture into the past with your guide to learn about the Hittites, Phygians and Uratians; and uncover the history of the Citadel of Ankara and Ataturk Mausoleum.

Visit **Temple of Augustus** & walk by the **Kızılay** neighborhood.

[1 night in Ankara. Meals: Breakfast]

## DAY 10: ANKARA - ISTANBUL, BOSPHORUS DINNER CRUISE

Check-out and transfer to the airport to fly to Istanbul.

Upon arrival into **Istanbul**, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

In the evening, we enjoy an all-inclusive **Bosphorus Dinner Cruise with Turkish Night Show** (4 hours @7:30pm).

Admire Istanbul's illuminated mosques, palaces and bridges from the water. Savor a delicious 3-course dinner with a choice of fish or meat menus. Enjoy live entertainment, including belly dancing, gypsy and whirling dervish shows. Finish with a live DJ show. Select drinks are included and you can optionally upgrade to an unlimited alcoholic drinks package.

[3 nights in **Istanbul**. Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

## DAY 11: ISTANBUL OLD CITY TOUR

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

- **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** (admission is included): Witness the opulent and powerful history of the Ottoman sultans, showcasing magnificent architecture and priceless treasures. Closed on Tuesdays.
- **Hagia Irene Museum** in Topkapi Palace's courtyard (admission is included): Offers a unique glimpse into Byzantine history and architecture.
- **Harem in Topkapi Palace** (admission is included): Offers an intimate look at the lavish and intricate design of the Ottoman royalty's private lives.
- **Grand Bazaar:** This lively historic market is dotted with over 4000 shops filled with traditional Turkish handicrafts and more. A place where visitors can immerse themselves into local life and hunt for unique souvenirs amidst the echoes of centuries-old trade.

[Meals: Breakfast]

## DAY 12: ISTANBUL TWO CONTINENTS TOUR WITH BOSPHOROUS CRUISE

After breakfast, we 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 connecting 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 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 and Leander's Tower from the water.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

## DAY 13: DEPART ISTANBUL

After breakfast, transfer 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.

## 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.

