



TRAVELING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

# Turkey: Istanbul Stopover

## 4-Day, 3-Night Journey

### *Istanbul*

Enhance your layover with a 3-night Istanbul stopover tour. Discover the majestic Hagia Sophia and the enchanting Blue Mosque, both are iconic symbols of Istanbul's storied past. Stroll through the vibrant Grand Bazaar, a labyrinth of history and commerce. Delight in the city's culinary landscape, a paradise for gourmands where traditional kebabs, fresh flatbreads, and exotic spices tantalize the senses.

Don't just pass through Istanbul Airport — transform your stopover into an unforgettable cultural journey! You can also add this stopover with your Dubai, Maldives or Greece tours.



A cruise on the 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 the Grand Bazaar



Istanbul Street Food by the waterfront



Taste authentic succulent Turkish kebabs

## 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
- ▶ Hotel Tourism Fee
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee
- ▶ Gratuity
- ▶ Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airports

Istanbul - Istanbul Airport (IST)

## 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, 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 Ottoman royalty's lavish 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 3: 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 4: DEPART TURKEY VIA 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.

\*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.

