

TRAVELING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Turkey & Maldives

16-Day, 14-Night Journey

Izmir, Ephesus, Pamukkale, Antalya, Cappadocia, Ankara, Istanbul, Maldives

On this in-depth voyage through Turkey you will visit the sites where history happened. Experience floating above the magical volcanic landscapes of Cappadocia in a colorful balloon. See famous Pamukkale Hot Springs. Taste traditional Turkish cuisine and shop at Istanbul's historic Grand Bazaar. Then unwind, recharge, and rejuvenate at the perfect getaway island. Treat yourself to a luxurious stay at a stunning 4-star private island in the middle of the great Indian Ocean.

♦ Private Tour or Small Group Tour

Trip Overview (*UNESCO World Heritage Site)

- ▶ **Ancient City of Ephesus***
- ▶ Carpet Weaver Center
- ▶ Village & Vineyard Tour
- ▶ **Pamukkale Hot Springs***
- ▶ **Hierapolis Ancient City***
- ▶ Old City of Antalya
- ▶ Antalya Beaches
- ▶ Aspendos Ancient Theatre
- ▶ Konya Mevlana Museum
- ▶ Whirling Dervishes
- ▶ Hot Air Balloon Ride
- ▶ Uchisar Castle
- ▶ Cavusin
- ▶ **Goreme & Rock Sites of Cappadocia***
- ▶ Pottery & Carpet Workshop
- ▶ Love Valley
- ▶ Devrent Valley
- ▶ Ankara City Tour
- ▶ Museum of Anatolian Civilizations
- ▶ Augustus Temple
- ▶ Haci Bayram Mosque
- ▶ Citadel of Ankara
- ▶ Ataturk Mausoleum
- ▶ Istanbul City Tour
- ▶ **Historic Areas of Istanbul***
- ▶ Topkapi Palace
- ▶ Hagia Sophia
- ▶ Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque)
- ▶ Hippodrome (Sultanahmet Square)
- ▶ Spice Bazaar
- ▶ Cable Car
- ▶ Dolmabahce Palace

- ▶ Grand Bazaar
- ▶ Süleymaniye Mosque
- ▶ Bosphorus Cruise

Why You'll Love This Tour



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES & ARCHITECTURE

Turkey has a remarkable number of archaeological sites spread out all over the country from many past empires and civilizations. From the ancient Ruins of Ephesus to Aspendos Ancient Theatre and Istanbul's grand palaces and historic mosques.

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STRIKING LANDSCAPES

The natural beauty of Turkey includes Pamukkale Hot Springs, the underground cities of Cappadocia and the Bosphorus strait dividing the European and Asian halves of Istanbul.

Experience one of the world's most famous hot air balloon rides above the fairy chimney rock formations of Cappadocia. Stay at the first carved rock hotel in Cappadocia and a thermal hotel in Pamukkale.



AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE

Treat yourself to a true tropical vacation at this private island in the Maldives. Enjoy underwater adventures like snorkeling and diving. Take a sunset or stargazing break under the twinkling stars in the middle of Indian Ocean.

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
- ▶ Maldives Airport Speedboat Transfer

Exclusions

- ▶ International and Domestic Airfare
- ▶ Tourism Fee paid directly to the hotel

- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee
- ▶ Gratuity
- ▶ Personal Expenses

Nearby Airports

Izmir – Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB)

Istanbul – Istanbul Airport (IST)

Male – Velana International Airport (MLE)

Itinerary

(B)-Breakfast, (L)-Lunch, (D)-Dinner

DAY 1: MAJOR N. AMERICA AIRPORT – IZMIR (ADB), TURKEY

Depart from your North America airport to fly to **Izmir**. Night on board the aircraft.

*If your flight departs in the early morning hours, you must arrive at the airport the night before the indicated departure day i.e. early Friday morning means Thursday night!

DAY 2: 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**.

*Hotel check-in time is generally 4 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 3: KUSADASI | ANCIENT EPHESUS TOUR (B, D)

After breakfast proceed to Ephesus to visit the ancient Ruins of Ephesus: **Temple of Artemis** (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Curetes Street, famous Roman baths, Celsus Library and Grand Theater. Visit a carpet weaving center. Then a Turkish Village tour. See vineyards to learn how to make fruit wine with Turkish wine makers.



DAY 4: KUSADASI – PAMUKKALE HOT SPRINGS, HIERAPOLIS ANCIENT CITY (B, D)

Check-out after breakfast and travel to Pamukkale (around 3.5 hours).

Pamukkale is famous for its natural hot springs (Hierapolis and Pamukkale are UNESCO World Heritage Sites). Explore Pamukkale Hot Springs and the famous travertines; calcium terraces left by flowing water. These hot springs have been used as a spa since the 2nd century BC. An option of lying in the waters of the natural springs is available.

Enroute, see ancient artifacts at **Hierapolis Ancient City** near Pamukkale.

1 night in **Pamukkale**.

DAY 5: PAMUKKALE - ANTALYA | ANTALYA OLD CITY (B, D)

Check-out after breakfast and drive to Antalya City (4 hours). Explore the Old City of **Antalya** and spend time at the crystal white beaches.

2 nights in **Antalya**.

DAY 6: ANTALYA | ASPENDOS (B, D)

Excursion to the **Aspendos Ancient Theatre**. This incredibly well-preserved ancient theatre was built in the 2nd century A.D. and has the capacity for 15,000 people. It is still being used for festivals and music concerts now.

DAY 7: ANTALYA - CAPPADOCIA | KONYA CITY TOUR & WHIRLING DERVISHES (B, D)

Check-out after breakfast and drive to Cappadocia via Konya (about 7 hours). Enroute stop at Konya to explore famous local foods and visit **Konya Mevlana Museum** and **school of whirling dervishes**. Continue to Cappadocia and check-in at the hotel.

2 Nights in **Cappadocia**.

DAY 8: CAPPADOCIA | FAIRY CHIMNEYS & MOONSCAPE (B, D)

This morning, enjoy your **hot air balloon** excursion over Cappadocia (weather permitting). A private transfer to the launch site where you'll join fellow adventure seekers. Your balloon glides over the sublime hills and valleys of Cappadocia giving a true sense of the region's fairytale terrain.

Drive to **Ozkonak Underground City**. Visit **Uchisar Castle**, the highest point in Cappadocia's moonscape. Climb up to the castle to enjoy a breath-taking view of the surrounding valleys and Mount Erciyes.

Goreme Open Air Museum, where the remains of rock-cut churches and Christian settlements date back hundreds of years. **Cavusin** is an abandoned village with old cave houses.

Visit a **pottery workshop**. See the most interesting mushroom-shaped pinnacles at **Love Valley**. A **handicraft workshop** shows Cappadocian handwoven carpets and kilims. In **Devrent Valley** we see natural rock formations that look like animals, and beautiful fairy chimneys with their hats.

DAY 9: CAPPADOCIA - ANKARA (B, D)

Check-out after breakfast.

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** and other ancient attractions during this private sightseeing tour in Ankara. Discover remains from the Stone and Neolithic ages and learn about the Hittites, Phrygians and Urartians as you venture into the past with your expert guide.

Visit **Augustus Temple** and **Haci Bayram Mosque**. Uncover the history of the **Citadel of Ankara** and **Ataturk Mausoleum**.

1 night in **Ankara**.

DAY 10: ANKARA – ISTANBUL | ISTANBUL CITY TOUR (B)

Check-out and transfer to the airport to board the flight for **Istanbul**.

On arrival, proceed for a half-day tour of the old city of **Istanbul**. Discover the best of Historic Areas of Istanbul (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Visit **Topkapi Palace**, the ornate residence of the sultans of the past. Stroll to the timeless **Hagia Sophia** mosque, the pride and glory of the Byzantine architecture. Take in the structure's imposing façade, matched only by the grandeur of its towering vaulted ceilings within. Visit the **Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque)** that is famous for its architecture as well as its blue tiles and then the **Hippodrome (Sultanahmet Square)**, where chariot races were held.

Continue to **Spice Bazaar**, also known as the Egyptian Market. Wander through this captivating marketplace with your guide and take in the myriad of sights, flavors, and aromas from the stalls selling fragrant herbs and decadent treats.

2 nights in **Istanbul**.

DAY 11: ISTANBUL | GOLDEN HORN TOUR, BOSPHORUS DINNER CRUISE (B, D)

Take the **Cable Car** to Pierre Loti Hill to enjoy magnificent scenery of Golden Horn.

Visit **Dolmabahce Palace**. Visit **Süleymaniye Mosque** and walk through its vast airy interior while keeping an eye out for some of the finest examples of calligraphy in the city.

Experience the lively **Grand Bazaar**; one of the oldest covered markets in the world. Stroll through the vibrant lanes dotted with over 4000 shops and expose your senses to this melting pot of colors, sounds,

and scents. Watch skillful local artisans and craftsmen work on their masterpieces and try out your bargaining skills.

In the evening we board the **Bosphorus cruise** and enjoy delicious gourmet food. You can dance with a panoramic view of the straits that separates the two continents of Europe and Asia.

DAY 12: ISTANBUL – MALE (MALDIVES) (B, D)

After breakfast, transfer to the Istanbul airport for your flight to Male, Maldives.

Upon arrival into Velana International Airport (MLE), you'll be met at the airport and transferred to the resort by speedboat.

DAY 13: MALDIVES (B)

Spend the day at leisure or take optional add-on excursions.

DAY 14: MALDIVES (B)

Spend the day at leisure or take optional add-on excursions.

DAY 15: MALDIVES (B)

Spend the day at leisure or take optional add-on excursions.

DAY 16: DEPART MALDIVES (B)

After breakfast, speedboat transfer to **Velana International Airport (MLE)** for 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.

