



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 landmarks 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 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.



Bosphorus Strait



Hagia Sophia Mosque



Blue Mosque



Grand Bazaar



Cappadocia Cave Dwellings



Hot Air Balloon Ride

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
- ▶ Tourism Fee of 9 - 18 Turkish lira (US \$1 - \$3)
per room per night paid directly to the hotel
- ▶ 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 (3 hours @8:30am). Stop at four of Istanbul's most visited



attractions in one morning. Skip the long lines and stroll to the timeless **Hagia Sophia mosque** which 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. Visit the **Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque)** that is famous for its architecture as well as its iconic blue tiles and then the **Hippodrome (Sultanahmet Square)** where chariot races were held. Followed by shopping at the lively **Grand Bazaar** dotted with over 4000 shops filled with traditional Turkish handicrafts.

[Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 3: BOSPHOROUS DINNER CRUISE

This morning and afternoon are free.

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.

[Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

DAY 4: ISTANBUL - CAPPADOCIA

Transfer to the airport and fly to **Cappadocia** this morning (one hour flight). Airport-hotel transfer.

The rest of the day is free.

[3 nights in Cappadocia. Meals: Breakfast]

DAY 5: RED (NORTH) CAPPADOCIA 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: GREEN (SOUTH) CAPPADOCIA 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 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.

