



TRAVELING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

# Best of Turkey

## 11-Day, 9-Night Journey

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

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

### ♦ Private Tour or Small Group Tour

### Trip Overview (\*UNESCO World Heritage Site)

- |                                   |                                      |                               |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▶ Kusadasi                        | ▶ Devrent Valley                     | ▶ Hagia Sophia                |
| ▶ <b>Ancient City of Ephesus*</b> | ▶ Love Valley                        | ▶ Blue Mosque                 |
| ▶ Carpet Weaving School           | ▶ Avanos                             | (Sultan Ahmed Mosque)         |
| ▶ Leather Production Center       | ▶ Pottery Making Atelier             | ▶ Museum of Turkish & Islamic |
| ▶ Winery                          | ▶ <b>Goreme &amp;</b>                | Arts                          |
| ▶ <b>Pamukkale Hot Springs*</b>   | <b>Rock Sites of Cappadocia*</b>     | ▶ Hippodrome                  |
| ▶ <b>Hierapolis Ancient City*</b> | ▶ Uchisar Castle                     | (Sultanahmet Square)          |
| ▶ Old Town of Antalya             | ▶ Ankara City Tour                   | ▶ Dolmabahce Palace           |
| ▶ Cable Car Ride                  | ▶ Museum of Anatolian                | ▶ Camlica Hill                |
| ▶ Ancient Perge                   | Civilizations                        | ▶ Grand Bazaar                |
| ▶ Konya City                      | ▶ Augustus Temple                    | ▶ Süleymaniye Mosque          |
| ▶ Konya Mevlana Museum            | ▶ Istanbul City Tour                 | ▶ Spice Bazaar                |
| (Whirling Dervishes)              | ▶ <b>Historic Areas of Istanbul*</b> | ▶ Bosphorus Dinner Cruise     |
| ▶ Hot Air Balloon Ride            | ▶ Topkapi Palace                     |                               |

# 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 ancient Ruins of Ephesus, Roman Baths in Perge to Istanbul's grand palaces and mosques.

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## STRIKING LANDSCAPES

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



## GREAT CUISINE & SPICE MARKETS

With such incredible food, it's no wonder Turkey has lots of food shopping opportunities from neighborhood open-air markets to the Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar. Taste juicy kebabs, baklavas, fresh seafood and local wine from Cappadocia-

## 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

- ▶ 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

Izmir – Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB)

Istanbul - Istanbul Airport (IST)

## Itinerary

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

### DAY 1: 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. The rest of the day is free.

[1 night in Izmir] [Meals: Dinner]

\*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

After breakfast proceed to Pamukkale. Enroute visit **Kusadasi**, **Library of Celsus**, the **Temple of Hadrian** and **Temple of Artemis**, and the vast **Great Theater**. Walk through the excavated ruins in **Ephesus**, **Carpet weaving school**, **Leather Production Center** & **Local winery**.

[1 night in Pamukkale] [Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

### DAY 4: PAMUKKALE HOT SPRINGS, HIERAPOLIS ANCIENT CITY

After breakfast, check-out and travel to **Antalya**. Enroute 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.

Arrive **Antalya**, visit the **Old Town**.

[2 nights in Antalya] [Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

#### **DAY 5: ANCIENT PERGE EXCURSION, 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, Dinner]

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

Check-out & drive to **Cappadocia**. Enroute stop at **Konya** to explore famous local foods. Visit **Konya Mevlana Museum** - school of whirling dervishes.

[2 nights in Cappadocia] [Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

#### **DAY 7: HOT AIR BALLOON & VALLEY OF FAIRY CHIMNEYS**

This morning, enjoy your **hot air balloon excursion** over Cappadocia. Your balloon silently glides over the sublime hills and valleys of Cappadocia giving a true sense of the region's fairytale terrain. The **Rock Sites of Cappadocia** are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Continue with your full day tour. Visit **Devrent Valley** – unique fairy-chimneys, **Love Valley** – mushroom-shaped pinnacles, **Avanos** that rests on the banks of the longest river in Turkey, **pottery making Atelier**, **Göreme Open Air Museum & Uchisar**.

[Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

#### **DAY 8: ANKARA DAY 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 **Kızılay** neighborhood.

[1 night in Ankara] [Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

## DAY 9: ISTANBUL CITY TOUR

Check-out and transfer to the airport to fly to 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 Byzantine architecture. Take in the structure's imposing façade, matched only by the grandeur of its towering vaulted ceilings within. Visit **Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts**. 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.

[2 night in Istanbul] [Meals: Breakfast]

## DAY 10: ISTANBUL CULTURAL IMMERSION (B)

Visit **Dolmabahce Palace** and **Camlica Hill**. Explore **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. Head to the adjacent gardens for a chance to appreciate the stunning vistas of the **Golden Horn**. Continue to **Grand Bazaar & Spice Bazaar**, wander through this captivating marketplace with your guide and take in the myriad of sights, flavors, and aromas from the stalls selling fragrant herbs, spices and decadent treats.

Enjoy a **Bosphorous dinner cruise** with a Turkish folk music and dance show.

[Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

## DAY 11: DEPART ISTANBUL

After breakfast, transfer to the 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.

