



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Independent Turkey: Istanbul & Cappadocia

7-Day, 6-Night *Istanbul, Cappadocia*

Experience the ultimate 7-day Turkish odyssey, highlighted by a breathtaking hot air balloon flight! Your journey begins in Istanbul, where the golden domes of the Hagia Sophia and the intricate Blue Mosque define the skyline. After exploring the sensory wonders of the Grand Bazaar, we fly to Cappadocia and wander through a dreamscape of fairy chimneys and ancient rock-hewn churches. This expedition seamlessly blends Ottoman grandeur with Cappadocia’s surreal volcanic beauty for a truly captivating escape.



A cruise on the Bosphorus Strait is a must



Hagia Sophia Mosque was a church built by the 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



Cappadocia Cave Dwellings



Uchisar Castle: Cappadocia's towering volcanic-rock landmark

Highlights

- Istanbul Old City Tour
- Istanbul Two Continents Tour and Bosphorus cruise
- Turkish Night Show in a Cave with Dinner
- Option 1: Northern Cappadocia with Uchisar Castle and the fairy chimneys of Love Valley
- Option 2: Southern Cappadocia with Ihlara Valley and Monastery (with lunch)
- Hot Air Balloon Flight over Soganli Valley

Inclusions

- Hotel Accommodations
- Daily Breakfast, 4 Lunches & 1 Dinner (See tour plan for details)
- English-speaking Guide and driver
- Airport Transfers

Exclusions

- International Air Fare
- Istanbul - Cappadocia Domestic Airfare
- Government Tourism Fee
- Travel Insurance
- Medical Expenses
- Visa Fee (if applicable)
- Gratuities
- Personal Expenses

Nearby Airport

Istanbul - Istanbul Airport (IST)

Cappadocia - Nevsehir Kapadokya Airport (NAV)

Itinerary

3 NIGHTS IN ISTANBUL

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.

[Meals: None]

DAY 2: ISTANBUL OLD CITY TOUR

Discover the best of Historic Areas of Istanbul (UNESCO World Heritage Site) on **this guided Old City of Istanbul tour** (group, 8 hours in the morning).



- **Hagia Sophia:** This timeless mosque was the pride and glory of the Byzantine empire. 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:** 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:** Offers an intimate look at the lavish and intricate design of the Ottoman royalty's private residence.
- **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, Lunch]

DAY 3: ISTANBUL TWO CONTINENTS TOUR WITH BOSPHOROUS CRUISE

After breakfast, we join the **Istanbul Two Continents Tour** (group, 8 hours in the morning).

Discover Istanbul by land and sea with a **Bosphorus cruise** and road trip across the European and Asian sides of the straits. Visit **Beylerbeyi Palace**, enjoy a Turkish lunch, and see the city from above at **Camlica Hill** (the highest point in Istanbul, Çamlıca Hill provides panoramic views of the city and the Bosphorus Strait) and **Pierre Loti Hill** (named after the famous French novelist, this hill offers a stunning vista of the Golden Horn).

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

3 NIGHTS IN CAPPADOCIA

DAY 4: ISTANBUL - CAPPADOCIA | TURKISH NIGHT SHOW IN A CAVE

Transfer to the airport and fly to **Cappadocia** this morning (one hour flight, airfare is not included). Airport and hotel transfer is included.

Turkish Night Show in a Cave with Dinner in Cappadocia (group, 3 hours in the evening). Enjoy an authentic show in a unique underground cave restaurant. This is a chance to get onstage for exclusive dancing tips and witness impressive traditional dances from seven regions. Enjoy unlimited beer, wine, and soft drinks from the open bar during the show.

[Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

DAY 5: CAPPADOCIA EXCURSION

You choose one of the following included excursions:

OPTION 1: NORTHERN CAPPADOCIA (RED) EXCURSION WITH LUNCH

This group tour follows the 'Red Route', taking in the most-photographed sights of **Northern Cappadocia**. (9 hours in the morning).

Admire **Uchisar Castle** that is crisscrossed by numerous underground passageways and rooms. Marvel at the fairy chimneys of **Love Valley** and Paşabağ (**Monks Valley** - a unique geological site). Enjoy a local lunch. Visit the pottery-making town and explore Cappadocia's history.

OPTION 2: SOUTHERN CAPPADOCIA (GREEN) EXCURSION LUNCH

Explore a lush part of the **southern Cappadocia region** on this group tour. (9 hours in the morning, with lunch).

Admire Cappadocia's mystical landscape, unique rock formations, and ancient underground cities.

Discover local life at a gem store and **Pigeon Valley**. Enjoy a riverside lunch before visiting the ancient **Selime Monastery** and hiking **Ihlara Valley**. The stunning canyon of **Ihlara Valley** is where monks (7th and 11th century) settled 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.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

DAY 6: HOT AIR BALLOON

Early in the morning, experience **a unique balloon flight over Soganli Valley** in Cappadocia (premium option).

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

DAY 7: DEPART TURKEY VIA ISTANBUL

After breakfast, transfer to **Nevsehir Kapadokya** (NAV) 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.