



**Group Travel Specialists**

**Spain, Portugal & Rest of Europe**

2121 North Ocean Blvd. Ste. 1405e

Boca Raton, FL 33431

**Toll-Free (800) 682-3057**

Tax ID 45-480-2341, ARC#10-52317-0, BBB rating A+

[www.SuntoursInternational.com](http://www.SuntoursInternational.com)

Email [SuntoursUSA@gmail.com](mailto:SuntoursUSA@gmail.com)

## ***Magnificent Turkey* Luxury Circuit - 13 days,** **Price \$pending** **(including a 2-nite extension to Madrid)**



**Turkey** is a country stretching from Eastern Europe to Western Asia, with cultural connections to the ancient Greek, Persian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires. Cosmopolitan Istanbul, on the Bosphorus Strait, is home to the iconic Hagia Sophia Basilica with its soaring dome and Christian mosaics, the huge Blue Mosque of the seventeenth century and the Topkapı Palace, from around 1460 and home to sultans. Ankara is the modern capital of Turkey.

### **THE TRIP INCLUDES**

Round trip Air to Turkey from JFK

13 days/11Nights: 3 Nights Istanbul, 1 Night Adana, 2 Nights Cappadocia, 1 Night Pamukkale, 1 Night Kusadasi, 1 Night Canakkale (Troy) and 2 Nights Madrid.

5\* Buffet Breakfast and Daily Dinner Hotels in Turkey.

Visits in Turkey:

Istanbul, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia Cathedral, Grand Bazaar, Roman Hippodrome, Topkapi Palace, [Antiochia](#), [St. Peter's Grotto](#) and Archaeological Museum, Cappadocia, Tarsus, Göreme Valley, [Paşabağ](#), Uçhisar Castle, Ortahisar, Hierapolis, Cotton Castle, Ephesus, Hadrian's Temple, Temple of Artemis, Roman Baths, Library, Ephesus Theater, Column of Artemision, House of the Virgin Mary, Bergamo, Asceplion, Celcius Library, Old City of Troy, Trojan Horse, Temple of Apollo, Fortified City Walls, Roman Theater, Greco-Roman Senate Building and a Bosphorus Canal Boat Tour.

Domestic flight Istanbul-Adana (Antioquia)

Domestic flight Pamukkale-Cappadocia

Professional English-speaking guides

Airport transfers and all taxes.

The extension of 2 Nights in Madrid is detailed at the end of the itinerary.

### **Our Tour Hotels (all 5\*) Rating**

<b><u>ISTANBUL:</u> Hotel Lionel 5*</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b><u>ADANA:</u> Divan Hotel 5*</b>	<b>8.8</b>
<b><u>CAPPADOCIA:</u> Mustafa Cappadocia Resort 5*</b>	<b>10</b>
<b><u>PAMUKKALE:</u> Doga Thermal Hotel 5*</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b><u>KUSADASI:</u> Charisma Hotel 5*</b>	<b>8.7</b>
<b><u>CANNAKALE:</u> Kolin Hotel 5*</b>	<b>8.6</b>

## **ITINERARY**

### **Day 1: USA - ISTANBUL (TURKEY)**

Overnight flight to Istanbul, Turkey. Dinner, movies and breakfast on board.



Istanbul- The Blue Mosque

## **Day 2: ARRIVAL IN ISTANBUL**

After arrival in Istanbul, our Guide will be waiting for us at the exit of the luggage section with a sign with the name of the group (Suntours). Transfer to the hotel.

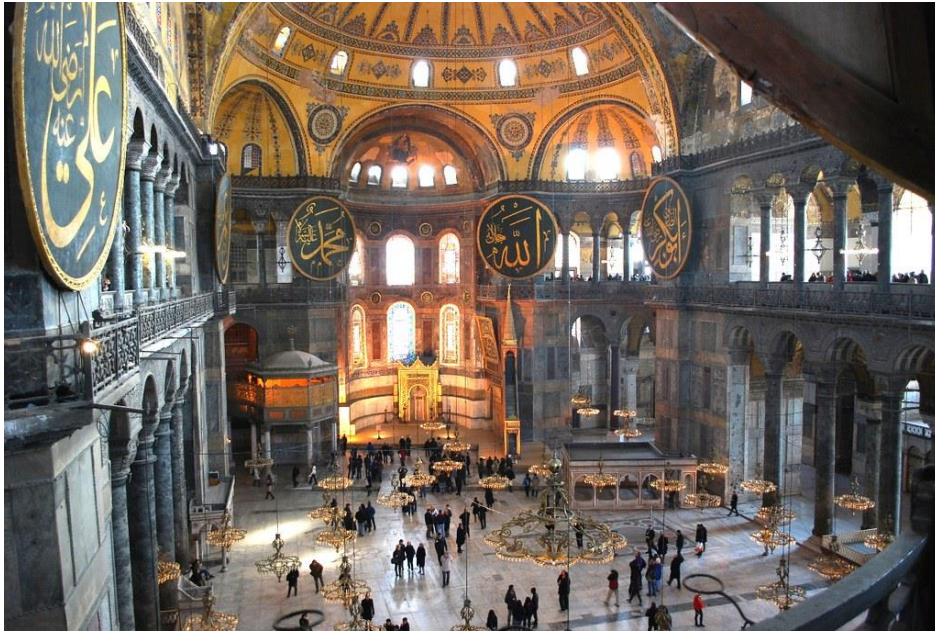
Rest of the afternoon free to rest from the trip.

Dinner with wine at our hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

## **DAY 3: ISTANBUL, TOUR OF THE HEART OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

After breakfast departure from the hotel to visit the ancient city. We will visit the **Roman Hippodrome** of the Byzantine era, where horse races were held and later became a center of civil activity of the Byzantine Empire and that today preserves the Obelisk of Theodosius. We will visit the majestic and elegant **Blue Mosque**, built in 1616, and known for its interior decoration with 21,000 Iznik tiles. We continue the visit to the **Cathedral of Santa Sophia**, from the sixth century, which is considered a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture, and is currently a museum. Then we will visit the **Topkapi Palace**, the residence of the sultans of the Ottoman Empire, famous for its excellent collection of jewelry and porcelain. The last stop will be at **the Grand Bazaar**, which is a covered market of the fifteenth century, composed of 5 thousand shops, and considered one of the first shopping centers in the world. Return to the hotel.

Dinner with wine at our hotel Overnight in Istanbul.



St. Sophia Cathedral

#### **DAY 4: ISTANBUL - ANTAKIA - ADANA**

Buffet breakfast at hotel and transfer to the airport to take the flight to **Hatay** (Antakya). Arrival in ancient **Antiochia**, where Christians were called "**Christians**" for the first time. St. Paul and St. Barabbas used the city as mission headquarters. Visit to St. **Peter's Grotto**, a cave converted into a church in 1.198. Then we visit the **Archaeological Museum**, world famous for the magnificent collection of mosaics from the late Roman and Byzantine periods, found in Daphne and its surroundings. Transfer to **Adana**. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

#### **DAY 5: ADANA – TARSUS - CAPPADOCIA**

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Departure to **Tarsus (Tarsus)**, birthplace of St. Paul. Tarsus was one of the largest cities of the ancient world along with Athens, Alexandria, and Constantinople. It is also in this city that Mark Antony saw Cleopatra for the first time and fell in love with her. Visit to St. **Paul's Well** and the old avenue of Tarsus, which is partially excavated. In the afternoon departure to Cappadocia. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

#### **DAY 6: CAPPADOCIA**

After breakfast, our guide will pick us up for a full day tour dedicated to exploring and discovering this fascinating region, unique in the world, in which together with its fantastic lunar landscape with beautiful and strange lava formations from the eruption of Mount Erciyas and the action of erosion. We will find countless small

towns and churches carved into the rock. **The Göreme Valley**, incredible Byzantine monastic complex composed of churches carved into the rock with beautiful frescoes, the troglodyte villages of **Paşabağ**, the natural fortress of **Uçhisar, Ortahisar**. We will pass by the artisan center of semiprecious stones of Cappadocia, and then by the fairy chimneys of Ürgüp, stone cones crowned by flat rocks and **Avanos**, which is a village of craft centers and weaving. In the afternoon we will visit an underground city. These cities were built as shelters by the Christians of the time and are composed of several underground floors ventilated by chimneys, where you can admire the common bedrooms, kitchens and dining rooms. We end the day with a visit to an artisan carpet workshop. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Cappadocia.



Cappadocia

#### **DAY 7: CAPPADOCIA – PAMUKKALE**

After breakfast we will be taken to the airport to take the flight to Pamukkale. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.

#### **DAY 8: PAMUKKALE - EPHESUS - IZMIR (OR KUSADASI) Breakfast**

Visit of the ancient **Hierapolis** and the Cotton Castle, **natural wonder of gigantic** white waterfalls, stalactites and natural pools formed over the centuries by the sliding of waters rich in calcareous salts from thermal springs. We continue to **Ephesus**, the best-preserved ancient city in Asia Minor, which during the first and second centuries came to have a population of 250,000 inhabitants. This city monopolized the wealth of the Middle East. During this excursion you will visit **the Temple of Hadrian**, the Roman Baths, **the Library, the Odeon, the Theater of Ephesus, and the column of the famous Artemision**, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Finally, we will visit the **House of the Virgin Mary**, where Mary spent her last 5 years before dying. Continue to **Izmir**. On the

way we will visit a leather workshop. Dinner and overnight in Izmir (or Kusadasi).



Pamukkale



Temple of Artemis at Ephesus Ephesus

### **DAY 9: IZMİR – BERGAMO – CANAKKALE**

Buffet breakfast and departure to the ancient city of **Bergamo**, one of the most important cultural, commercial and medical centers of the past, which has one of the most important libraries of the ancient world. We will visit the **Asclepion**, the famous hospital of the Ancient World.

Continue to **Canakkale**, a city located on both sides of the Dardanelles.

Dinner and overnight in Canakkale.



Bergamo Trojan Horse



### DAY 10: CANAKKALE - (TROY) - ISTANBUL

After breakfast we will visit Troy, the famous and ancient city of 9 levels. We will tour the Ancient City of Troy, **the Trojan Horse, the Temple of Apollo**, the fortified city walls, **the Roman Theater and the Greco-Roman Senate building**. After visiting the ancient city, we will leave for Istanbul. Farewell dinner with wine at our hotel Overnight in Istanbul.

### DAY 11: ISTANBUL – MADRID FOR OUR TWO NIGHT EXTENSION

Buffet breakfast and departure to Istanbul airport to take our flight to Madrid, where we will spend two nights. Arrival and transfer to our hotel. Free afternoon. Accommodation in Madrid.

### DAY 12: MADRID, VALLADOLID AND BODEGAS ARZUAGA (RIBERA DEL DUERO) Buffet

breakfast and departure on excursion with our guide to Valladolid. Visit to the city.



Valladolid is a city in northwestern Spain. It is known for medieval religious sites such as the Spanish Gothic church of San Pablo, with a history dating back to the 1400s, in

Plaza de San Pablo. Nearby is the Royal Palace, home to Spanish kings in the early 1600s. The National Museum of Sculpture occupies a Gothic building. The Christopher Columbus Museum narrates the life of the Italian explorer, who died in Valladolid in 1506

Continue to the Bodegas de Arzuaga and La Planta in the Ribera del Duero. The visit to "Live Nature" will include a tour of the nature reserve of the La Planvisit totate and its vineyards. Guided visit to the Bodegas Arzuaga and tasting of 3 wines.

1. Lunch in wineries, menu #5  
Appetizers at the centerpiece:
2. Black pudding cigarillos
3. Iberian ham croquettes
4. Cod temperance
5. Mini-thighs of graffiti
6. Iberian ham grissinis
7. **Roast Lamb D.O. Castilla y León in the Wood Oven Traditional Style**
8. Salad from the Riverside Garden
9. Special dessert
10. Red Arzuaga Crianza
11. Solán de Cabras Mineral Water
12. Coffee and Infusions
13. Chupitos (table liquors)

Return to Madrid. Overnight at our hotel.

### **DAY 13: MADRID-USA**

Buffet breakfast. Our guide will pick us up to take us to the airport for the flight back home, arriving this afternoon.

## **Description of our hotels**

**ISTANBUL Lionel Hotel Istanbul 5\*, rating 8.3**



Located in the Bayrampaşa district of Istanbul, the 5-star Lionel Hotel Istanbul features free WiFi throughout the property. Rooms have modern décor with elegant furnishings and include a minibar and tea/coffee making facilities. The private bathroom comes with a bath or shower, free toiletries and towels. The Dorlion restaurant offers à la carte and buffet dishes. A fresh buffet breakfast is served each morning. The hotel also has a brasserie. There is also a spa with massage services. The property features an indoor pool, sauna, hammam and fitness centre.

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## **ADANA**

**Divan Hotel, Adana 5\*, rating 8.8**



**Featuring free WiFi throughout the property, the 5-star Divan** Adana hotel offers accommodation in Adana. The hotel has a spa centre, sauna, indoor pool, gym and hammam. The 24-hour front desk offers room and concierge service. Rooms feature modern décor and include a flat-screen TV. At the guest house, every room includes a private bathroom. A hairdryer and free toiletries are provided. Laundry, dry cleaning and ironing services are available upon request and at an extra cost.

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## CAPPADOCIA

**Mustafa Cappadocia Resort, 5\*, rating 10**



The 5-star Mustafa Cappadocia Resort is located in Urgup, in the historic Cappadocia region. The hotel has a Turkish bath, sauna, gym and outdoor pool. Its modern, air-conditioned rooms include free Wi-Fi. They are decorated in soft colours and feature a minibar and satellite TV. The hotel's 2 buffet-style restaurants serve international cuisine in the outdoor poolside dining area. The bar offers hot and cold drinks.

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# PAMUKKALE

## Doğa Thermal Health & Spa, 5\*, rating 8.5



**Located in Karahayit, the 5-star Hotel Doğa Thermal Health & Spa** in Papaukkale features a spacious garden, an indoor pool and an outdoor pool with free parasols and sun loungers. It features a physiotherapy clinic and free Wi-Fi throughout. Each room here will provide you with a flat-screen TV with satellite channels, air conditioning and a balcony. The private bathroom comes with a hairdryer, bathrobe and free toiletries. All rooms offer mountain and pool views. Doğa Thermal Health & Spa offers a spa, sauna, Turkish bath, hot spring bath, massage treatments and a fitness centre at an extra cost. The 24-hour front desk offers room service. Laundry, dry cleaning and ironing services can also be requested. An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet is served daily. The on-site restaurant also serves lunch and dinner.

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# KUSADASI

## Charisma De Luxe Hotel 5\*, Rating 8.7



**The 5-star Hotel Charisma in Kusadasi** offers a 60-metre private beach and a huge swimming pool with panoramic views of the Aegean Sea. It is a 15-minute walk from Kuşadası shopping and entertainment area. All standard rooms have a balcony with sea views, a spa bath, an LCD TV with satellite channels and a minibar with 2 bottles of water, 2 bottles of mineral water and 2 soft drinks. Free WiFi is available in the hotel's public areas.

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## CANAKKALE

### Kolin Hotel Spa & Convention Center 5\*, rating 8.6



**The 5-star Kolin Hotel Spa & Convention Center in Canakkale** offers spacious rooms with views of the Dardanelles Strait, Gallipoli National Park and the hotel gardens. The hotel has 6 bars, indoor and outdoor pools and a modern spa. There is also an indoor children's pool. The property offers a free airport shuttle service. The modern, air-conditioned rooms at the Kolin Hotel Spa & Convention Center feature free Wi-Fi, a minibar and satellite TV. The rooms have a private bathroom with toilet, shower and hairdryer. Guests can dine at the buffet-style Sofra restaurant overlooking the strait, or sit down to enjoy a Turkish meal at the Zeytin restaurant. There are several bars and the weekend disco offers live music. The Kolin Hotel Spa & Convention Center offers towels, sun loungers and parasols for free use next to the different pools. Children can play volleyball, football and tennis in the paddling pools. The Carpe Diem Spa offers a wide range of treatments and a hammam.

## MADRID

### NOVOTEL MADRID CENTER – rating 8.7

