



***Group Travel Specialists***

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## **The Best of Turkey - 11 days**

**Price on request**



**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 with its soaring dome and Christian mosaics, the huge seventeenth-century Blue Mosque and the Topkapı Palace, from around 1460 and which was home to sultans. Ankara is the modern capital of Turkey.

### **THE TRIP INCLUDES**

Round-trip Air, 3 nights Istanbul, 1 night Canakkale, 2 nights Kusadasi, 1 night Ephesus and 2 nights Cappadocia. 4 star hotels. Visiting Istanbul, Gallipoli, Troy, Pergamon, Pamukkale, Ephesus and Cappadocia. Buffet Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner with wine daily. English-speaking guide. Domestic flights. Airport transfers.

# ITINERARY

## Day 1: USA - ISTANBUL

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



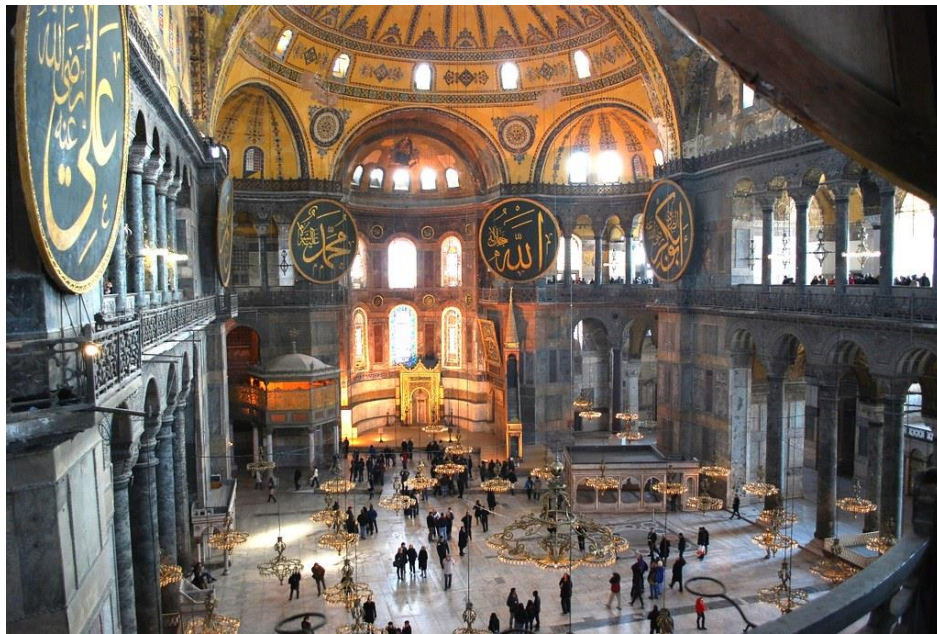
Istanbul- The Blue Mosque

## Day 2: ARRIVAL IN ISTANBUL

After arrival in Istanbul, our representatives will pick us up at the exit of the customs area with a sign with the name of the group. Transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day free to rest from the trip. Dinner with wine and overnight in Istanbul.

## Day 3: ISTANBUL TOUR

Buffet breakfast and guided tour of the charming city of Istanbul including **Topkapi Palace, St. Sophia Cathedral, Blue Mosque and Hippodrome** where chariot races took place in the Byzantine Wars. We will visit **the Grand Bazaar** for shopping and exploring bargains. Lunch, lunch at a local restaurant. Dinner with wine and overnight in Istanbul.



Cathedral of Santa Sofia

#### Day 4: ISTANBUL-CAPPADOCIA BY PLANE

Breakfast and transfer to the airport to take the flight to Cappadocia. Arrival in Cappadocia, welcome and transfer to the hotel. Lunch at a local restaurant. Dinner with wine and overnight in Cappadocia

#### Day 5: TOUR TO NORTH CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast at the hotel, our guide picks us up around 09:30-10:00 am to join the Tour of Northern Cappadocia. We will visit the **Goreme Panorama**, which has a breathtaking view of the **Goreme Village**, land of fairy chimneys, **the Open Air Museum**, which is the largest monastery complex in the region. Then we will visit **Ortahisar**, a typical village with its castle, and **Pasabag**, (fairy chimney valley), with very interesting mushroom-like rock formations. We pass through the valley of Imagination, **Devrent**, where we will have the impression that animals are petrified in the rocks. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we will walk along the banks of the **Red River**, which is the longest river in Turkey and visit the small village, very famous with its pottery workshops. Here, we will have the opportunity to see how ceramics are made. End of the day and return to the hotel passing through Love Valley that offers beautiful views. Arrival at the hotel. Dinner with wine and overnight in Cappadocia.





Cappadocia

### Day 6: TOUR TO SOUTH CAPPADOCIA

Buffet breakfast. Pick up from the hotel around 09:30-10:00 am by the tour guide and join the South Cappadocia Tour. We will visit **Uchisar Castle**, which is the largest fairy chimney used as a fortress by many civilizations. Those who wish can go hiking about 4 kms in the **Red Valley** and pass through **the Rose Valley** exploring rock churches that saved the first Christians during the Roman persecution. We arrive at the **village of Cavusin**, an ancient settlement of the region where you can see their cave residences. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we will visit the **underground city of Kaymaklı**, the widest in Cappadocia and used by refugees or people fleeing catastrophes. **Pigeon Valley** offers a nice view over **Uchisar Castle** with pigeons still living in dovecotes. The last visit is to the **Valley of the Three Beauties**, which is famous for its vines and stunning views. End of the tour transfer to the airport and flight to Istanbul. Arrival at the airport, pick up by agent and transfer to our hotel. Dinner with wine and overnight in Istanbul.

### Day 7: CAPPADOCIA-PAMUKKALE

After breakfast at the hotel. Our guide picks us up around 07:30-08:00 am to go towards Pamukkale. Lunch on the route. Arrival and visit of **Pamukkale-Hierapolis**. Pamukkale has hot springs and terraces of carbonate minerals left by flowing and cooling water. It looks like cotton and that is why the Turks call it 'Cotton Castle - Pamukkale'. Lunch at a local restaurant. Visit to **the Ancient City of Hierapolis**, declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco, which used to be visited by people during retirement. We can walk through the terraces or swim in **the Cleopatra pool**. Dinner with wine and overnight in Pamukale.



Pamukkale

### Day 8: PAMUKKALE - EPHEBUS

After breakfast at the hotel. Our guide picks us up around 09:00-09:30 am to leave for Ephesus. We will visit the **Temple of Artemis**, which used to be one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world, the **Ancient City of Ephesus**, the **Temple of Hadrian**, the **Celcius Library**, the **Theater**, **Hamams** and the **Old Port**. Lunch at a local restaurant. Finally, we will visit the **House of the Virgin Mary**, where Mary spent her last 5 years before she died. Visit to a fur factory. This site is recognized as a place of pilgrimage by the Vatican. End of the tour and transfer to the. Dinner with wine and overnight in Izmir.



Temple of Artemis at Ephesus



Ephesus

### Day 9: EPHESUS-PERGAMUM-TROY

After breakfast at the hotel, our guide picks us up around 08:30- 08:45 am to head to the **ancient city of Pergamum**, which has one of the most important libraries in the ancient world and we will also see **the Altar of Zeus**. After visiting Pergamon, at noon, lunch at a local restaurant. Continuation to TROY, **Ancient City of Troy, the Trojan Horse, the Temple of Apollo, the fortified city walls, the Roman Theatre and the Greco-Roman Senate building.** Dinner with wine and overnight in ÇANAKKALE.



Trojan Horse



Pergamon

### Day 10: GALLIPOLI-ISTANBUL

Pick up by our guide around 06:30-07:00 am and departure to Gallipoli. Arrival in Gallipoli and visits to the Dardanelles Memorials. Lunch at a local restaurant. The tour ends in Istanbul. Dinner with wine and overnight in Istanbul

### Day 11: ISTANBUL - USA

Buffet breakfast and Istanbul airport transfer for our homecoming flight