

Highlights of Turkey





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 Start Location

 Plane

 Cruise

 Over night

 Visited Location

 End Location

 Train

 Ferry

Day 1 | Welcome to Istanbul



Meet at the crossroads of East and West – the effervescent capital of Istanbul launches your journey of discovery through centuries of turmoil and triumph. Spend the day exploring after being transferred to your hotel. Later, you'll meet your Travel Director and travel companions for a memorable Light Meal.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Renaissance Polat Hotel

Day 2 | Discover Colourful Istanbul



Delve into the treasures of the Ottoman Empire, strolling through the exquisite Topkapi Palace with its spellbinding views of the Bosphorus. Visit the Byzantine Hippodrome to see where thundering chariots once raced to victory before following in the footsteps of the faithful to see the Blue Mosque – its six minarets and beautiful blue Iznik tiles are a sight to behold. Dive Into Culture as you haggle for souvenirs at Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, one of the largest covered markets in the world with 60 streets and over 5,000 shops. Later, we explore Hagia Sophia, once one of the greatest churches in all of Christendom. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at the museum of Classical Turkish Music, preserving this traditional art. Come across the genius of Turkey's greatest composer, Dede Efendi, during a private concert by students of the Music Conservancy. The evening is yours to further explore the city.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Renaissance Polat Hotel

Day 3 | Journey to Gallipoli and Çanakkale



We remember the heroism of the many thousands of men who fought bravely at Gallipoli. We'll see Lone Pine Cemetery and the battlefields that today still hold special significance for the Turkish, Australian and New Zealand nations. Spend a quiet moment commemorating the lives lost at Anzac Cove and Chunuk Bair, where some of the fiercest fighting took place during World War I. This evening we stay in Çanakkale where tonight we'll dine in our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Kolin

Day 4 | Off to Troy, Pergamon and Izmir



Visit a land of Trojan legends, an ancient city immortalised by Homer in the stories of King Priamus, Hector, Paris and the beautiful Helen. We admire the archaeological excavations at Troy revealing nine separate periods of settlement and the symbolic replica wooden Trojan horse commemorating the epic war machine constructed by the Greeks to end a lengthy siege. We continue to the ancient kingdom of Pergamon to visit the Asklepiion Medical Centre whose staff of entwined snakes remains a symbol of modern medicine today. This afternoon, we Connect With Locals over lunch in the village of Demircidere at a Be My Guest experience. We travel to the broad boulevards of seaside Izmir later and dine in our hotel this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Kaya Izmir Thermal & Convention

Day 5 | Admire the Ruins of Ephesus and on to Pamukkale



Journey into antiquity and explore the ruins of the ancient Greek city of Ephesus admiring the well-preserved façade of the Library of Celsus and its famous Temple of Artemis. We visit the House of the Virgin Mary, the Temple of Hadrian guarded by Medusa's head, and the Great Theatre, built by the Romans in the 2nd-century and still in use today. You'll learn about the intricate heritage and art of carpet weaving during a visit to a Turkish carpet emporium. Relax and enjoy the blissful thermal pools at your hotel in Pamukkale.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Colossae Thermal

Day 6 | Onwards to Hierapolis and Konya



This morning we enjoy a leisurely visit to the ancient ruins of the Holy City of Hierapolis, imagining ancient patrons seeking revival and rest within their limestone-laden thermal springs. Visit the Mevlana Museum and Mausoleum in Konya, a former dervish lodge of the Mevlevi order, which reveals the origins of Sufism. Our last stop today is Konya where tonight we dine in our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Dedeman

Day 7 | Continue to Cappadocia



Continue your journey to Cappadocia, you'll see a 13th-century caravanserai and underground city of Saratli on the ancient Silk Road. Then Dive Into Culture to learn about the art of pottery making in Avanos. Later, consider joining an Optional Experience to watch the Whirling Dervishes then enjoy a Regional Meal at a local restaurant. Tonight we stay in one of Trafalgar's Stays With Stories hewn out of the surrounding rock and houses.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Exedra Hotel

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Performance of Whirling Dervishes Followed by Dinner at a Local Restaurant - The 'dance' of the Whirling Dervishes is called Sema. It is part of Turkish custom, history, beliefs and culture and represents a man's spiritual journey, and will be a highlight of your trip to Turkey. Once the ceremony is over, we will head to a nearby local restaurant where you will have the chance of savouring varieties of real Turkish food, special for Cappadocia region. The performance of Whirling Dervishes is NOT a show but instead it is a mystic ceremony.

Adult: 58.00 USD

Day 8 | A Day to Explore Spectacular Göreme



The whimsical landscapes of Cappadocia take centre stage today as you embark on a full-day excursion that will see you visit the Göreme Open-Air Museum, the Paşabağı and Kizil Vadi valleys. Join your fellow travellers for an included dinner this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Exedra Hotel

Day 9 | Return to Istanbul



Take a short flight this morning to Istanbul, where the rest of the day is yours to explore the city your way. Enjoy a sensory explosion at the vibrant Spice Market, take a stroll through the historic Sultanahmet or find a quiet rooftop café and admire Istanbul's iconic skyline. You could choose instead to join an optional cruise and sail the waters of the Bosphorus which separate Asia and Europe. Tonight, join your Travel Director and fellow companions for a Farewell Dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Renaissance Polat Hotel

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Traditional Bosphorus Cruise - No stay would be complete without this unforgettable cruise along the Bosphorus, the winding strait separating Europe and Asia. Along the shores you'll see a beautiful mixture of modern hotels, ancient wooden villas, marble palaces, fortresses and small fishing villages, as you relax on board.
Adult: 60.00 USD

Day 10 | Farewell Istanbul



We say a fond farewell to Turkey and newfound friends as we prepare to depart to the airport for our flight home.

Meals: Breakfast