

Best of Turkey



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● Start Location

✈ Plane

🚢 Cruise

1 Over night

● Visited Location

● End Location

🚆 Train

🚢 Ferry

Day 1 | Welcome to Istanbul



Stand at the ancient crossroads between Europe and Asia, embarking on a journey of discovery through ancient lands and the marauding empires who fought to rule it. Arriving in vibrant Istanbul, you will be transferred to your hotel before joining your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a memorable dinner to kick off your epic adventure.

Meals: Dinner

Hotel: Arts Hotel Taksim

Day 2 | Discover Colourful Istanbul



Spend your day delving into a city where modern and ancient coexist effortlessly. Gain insights into the Ottoman Empire's power during your guided tour of the Topkapi Palace and see the 4th-century Egyptian obelisk. Visit Hagia Sophia and the Hippodrome. View the exquisite Blue Mosque, said to rival even the Great Mosque in Mecca. Consider an optional cruise navigating the waters of the Bosphorus.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Arts Hotel Taksim

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: 62.00 EUR

Day 3 | Journey to Gallipoli and Çanakkale



Pay tribute to the brave souls who lost their lives at Gallipoli - the national pride of two nations, the Turkish and Australians, were awakened at the site of the bloody WWI battlefields and are commemorated to this day. See Anzac Cove and the Dardanelles, and visit the cemeteries of Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair, the final resting place of many Allied soldiers. We continue to Çanakkale where we dine at our hotel tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Kolin

Day 4 | Off to Troy and Izmir

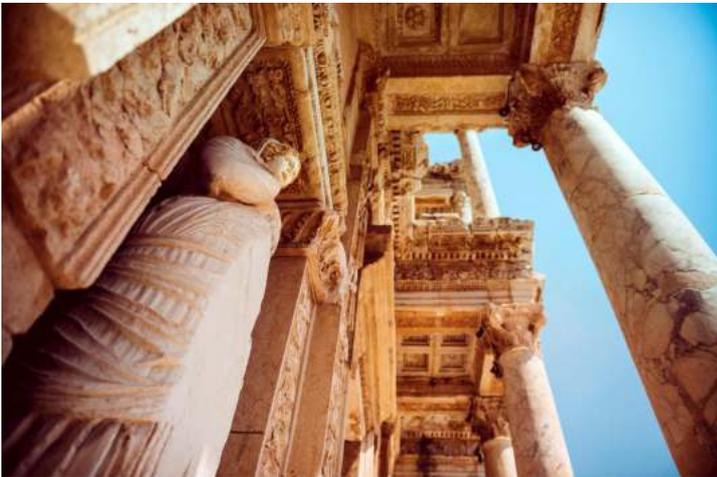


Explore the legends of Troy and see the symbolic replica of the famous Wooden Horse the Greeks used to break their siege of this ancient city. This afternoon, Connect With Locals over lunch in the village of Demircidere at a Be My Guest experience. Travel to the broad boulevards of seaside Izmir later and dine in your hotel this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Hotel: Kaya Izmir Thermal & Convention

Day 5 | Explore the Ruins of Ephesus



Stroll through the ruins of the ancient Greek city of Ephesus, past the amazingly intact façade of the Library of Celsus and down to what was once its thriving port. During your visit to a Turkish carpet emporium, learn about the rich heritage and intricate artistry of carpet weaving. Visit the House of Virgin Mary at Mt. Koressos, then spend the rest of the day at leisure. This evening you may consider joining an optional dinner at a local restaurant in Izmir and indulge in some of the local raki.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Kaya Izmir Thermal & Convention

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Izmir Seafood Dinner - Head to the Kordon where we take you to one of Izmir's favourite seafood restaurants. Known for stunning views and for serving the best fish dishes in coastal Turkey, dine on a variety of seafood and meze delights with drinks. Don't worry there's great options for those who don't like seafood too!

Adult: 87.00 EUR

Day 6 | Onwards to Pamukkale



Leave the coastal city of Izmir behind as you journey inland to Pamukkale. Relax and enjoy the blissful thermal pools at your hotel before dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Colossae Thermal

Day 7 | Venture to Hierapolis and Antalya



Tread in the footsteps of the ancients who sought relief and relaxation at the Roman health spa at Hierapolis, then admire the bubbling pools and delicate white cascades of water of Pamukkale's Cotton Castle Springs. Our stop for the next two nights is the Mediterranean retreat of Antalya. Visit the Antalya Archaeological Museum, then enjoy some time on your own ambling through the winding lanes of its old city and admiring beautifully preserved Ottoman architecture. This evening, join your companions for dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Marmara Antalya

Day 8 | Antalya Free Time



Enjoy a day at your own pace, taking in the captivating seaside ambiance of the Turkish Riviera. Stroll through the charming, winding streets of the old city, where you can admire the well-preserved Ottoman architecture. For an Optional Experience, you may choose a yacht cruise and guided tour of Antalya's historic old town.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Marmara Antalya

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Antalya Old Town and Waterfall Yacht Cruise - Antalya Old Town, 'Kaleici', is the picturesque old quarter in the centre of present day Antalya. Your Travel Director will show you the imposing Hadrian's Gate, dating from 130 AD when the Roman Emperor visited the city. Then you'll enjoy a yacht cruise to the stunning Düden waterfall.

Adult: 60.00 EUR

Day 9 | On the Road to Aspendos and Konya



Witness the world's best-preserved theatre of antiquity during your first stop in Aspendos this morning, before continuing to Konya, where we will gain insights into the mystical Whirling Dervish sect whose remains lie in the Mevlana Museum and Mausoleum. We continue to the Karatay Tile Museum, spellbound by its exquisitely Seljuk-tiled dome, before returning to our hotel where we'll dine tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Dedeman

Day 10 | Continue to Cappadocia



See a well-preserved 13th-century caravanserai, at which weary travellers used to rest. We journey to Cappadocia with its honey-coloured rocky spires providing an enchanting backdrop for our visit to the underground city of Saratli on the ancient Silk Road. Join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at King's Valley eco farm. Local host Ali shares how he created an eco farm on the very spot where his grandfather's garden once stood, in an effort to preserve traditional farming and revive the local economy. Tonight we stay in one of Trafalgar's Stays With Stories located with views of the valley and ancient Ortahisar rock castle.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Exedra Hotel

Day 11 | A Day to Explore Spectacular Göreme



The other-worldly landscapes of Cappadocia take centre stage today as we explore its volcanic landscape dotted with caves and troglodyte dwellings. We visit the Göreme Open-Air Museum to admire the extraordinary rock-hewn churches and the fairy chimneys of Paşabağ. Dive Into Culture to learn about the art of pottery making in Avanos. This evening, indulge in the flavours of traditional pottery kebabs during a Regional Dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Exedra Hotel

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Performance of Whirling Dervishes - 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.

Adult: 42.00 EUR

**The performance of Whirling Dervishes is NOT a show but instead it is a mystic ceremony.*

Day 12 | Onwards to Ankara



Arriving in the youthful capital of Turkey today, we visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations and the final resting place of the country's beloved Atatürk, the first president of the modern Turkish nation. This evening we dine at our hotel in Ankara.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Grand Mercure Ankara

Day 13 | Return to Istanbul



Returning to Istanbul, Dive Into Culture with a visit to the Grand Bazaar. Discover the hidden lanes and watch artisans at work while you wander the main thoroughfares. Spend some time haggling with passionate market vendors lining its labyrinthine lanes. Finish the day with your Travel Director and fellow companions for a memorable dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Arts Hotel Taksim

Day 14 | Farewell Istanbul



Our epic journey into antiquity has come to an end as we bid Istanbul and newfound friends a fond farewell.

Meals: Breakfast