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Turkey Historical Sites 10 nights/11 days Tour

ISTANBUL: A Cradle of Civilization Awaits Explorers

Day 1-Arrival at Istanbul airport: Pick up from the airport to be transferred to the hotel.

On your arrival, a friendly Mavi Tour representative will receive and drive you to the hotel. No tour will be organized on this day, you may rest and relax, and overcome the jet lag. On your own, you are free to explore the city, and or places in your hotel's vicinity.

Brief about Istanbul:

The foundation of İstanbul (Constantinople) was laid in 330 AD. Also called City of Seven Hills, Istanbul is the largest city and the country's economic, cultural, and historical center. Istanbul is the only city in the world which straddles two continents, both Europe and Asia, divided by the strait of Bosphorus. It boasts a population of over 16 million residents, comprising 19% of Turkey's population.

Help desk located in Istanbul speaking English, Turkish, Urdu, and Hindi languages will be available to assist you throughout your stay in Turkey at cell number +90 533 634 95 15



View of Suleymaniye Mosque

Day 2 – Istanbul:

Meet at the lobby of the hotel after breakfast for pick up at 10.00 am to visit:

- Topkapi Palace (Built in 1460 by Fatih Sultan Mehmet)
- Hagia Sophia (Built in 537 by Byzantine Emperor Constantius)
- Blue Mosque (Built in 1609 by Sultan Ahmet)
- Hippodrome (Built by Roman Emperor Severus in early 3rd Century)
- Cistern (Underground water storage system built during the time of Byzantine empire)

Lunch break: 12.00- 13.00. Tour end at 17.00 hours and the bus will drop you back to hotel.



Topkapi Palace

Whirling Dervishes Live Show at 19.00 (1 hour).



Whirling Dervish

Day 3 – Istanbul:

Meet at the lobby of the hotel after breakfast for pick up at 10.00am to visit:

3.1 Dolmabahçe Palace:

Dolmabahçe Palace was the first European-style palace in Istanbul and was built by Sultan Abdülmecid between 1842 and 1853, at a cost of five million Ottoman gold pounds, the equivalent of 35 tons of gold. Fourteen tons of gold leaf was used to adorn the ceilings of the palace. At the Center of the hall, the world's largest Bohemian crystal chandelier can be found; it was thought that it is a gift from Queen Victoria, however, recently a receipt was discovered evidencing that it was paid by the Ottomans. The chandelier has 750 lamps and weighs 4.5 tons. Dolmabahçe has the largest collection of Bohemian and Baccarat crystal chandeliers in the world, and one of the great staircases has bannisters of Baccarat crystal, brass, and mahogany, all in the shape of a horseshoe. Another notable feature is the 150-year-old bearskin, a gift from the Tsar of Russia.



Dolmabahçe Palace

3.2 Covered Market:

Covered Bazar, built in 15th century, is the oldest and the largest covered market in the world. It covers approximately 55,000 sq. meters, and has 21 gates, 51 streets, in addition to over 4,000 shops, selling numerous items, including tiles, ceramics, gold, silver, leather goods, carpets, kilims and myriad other gift items.

Lunch break 12.00-13.00.

Tour will end 17.00 hours.

20.00-23.00 hours' Bosphorus cruise with dinner.



Bosphorus cruise

Day 4-Istanbul/Cappadocia (760 km from Istanbul, about 8-hour drive)

Meet at the lobby of the hotel after breakfast for pick up at 9.00 am



Discover the fairy tale landscape of the Cappadocia region

A geological peculiarity, world heritage site and area of exceptional natural wonders, the fairy tale landscapes of Cappadocia fire the imagination like nowhere else in Turkey or the world. A fascinating history, and topography of honeycombed hills, unfathomably large boulders, and rock formations define this area of Anatolia in central Turkey. Thousands of years ago, people carved a tunnel and chamber complex into the soft rock and in the 4th century, an underground urbanization was created here. The landscape is a honeycomb of man-made caves, places to live, work, and worship. Entire towns were formed by tunnel complexes.

There are many popular attractions in Cappadocia such as fresco adorned churches chiseled out of rock, fairy chimneys, as well as the open-air museum in Goreme. Subterranean (Underground) cities of Kaymakli and rock fortress of Ortahisar are also among the most visited sites in Cappadocia. A truly unique hospitality experience.

Day 5-Cappadocia

Optional Balloon Ride: Starts early morning at 5.00am for an hour and will take a total time of about 3 hours costing around US Dollars 170 depending upon high or low season.

Your tour begins with hotel pick up one hour before the sunrise. Experience a one-hour hot balloon ride across Cappadocia.

What to expect:

- Take a scenic hot-air balloon ride through Cappadocia's the rocky crags, stone peaks.
- Admire Turkey's most unique attraction with a thrilling airborne flight. A bird's eye panorama of Turkey's most surreal heritage site.
- Your pilot gives you background on the Cappadocia region as you glide through the air.
- Balloons hold up to 16 people, perfect for larger groups.

Meet at the lobby of the hotel after breakfast for pick up at 9.30 am

With the guidance of our experienced professional guides, you will see the main places to visit in Cappadocia such as Goreme Open Air Museum, Uchisar Castle, Love Valley, Three Beauties Fairy Chimneys. You can also see traditional carpet weaving techniques in Cappadocia's crafts center Avanos, as well as watch pottery making in pottery making workshops and even try making pottery.

Lunch break: 12.30 to 1.30

Dinner at 8.30pm

Day 6-Cappadocia: Tour of Underground cities

Meet at the lobby of the hotel after breakfast for pick up at 9.30 am

It is believed that the underground cities of Cappadocia were initially built during the eighth and seventh centuries BCE by the Phrygians, who carved their living spaces into the region's soft volcanic rock. There are around 200 cities in total in Cappadocia, with the most visited including Derinkuyu and Kaymakli.

We will be taking you to one of the most famous underground cities in Cappadocia is Derinkuyu, built during the Byzantine era, when its inhabitants used it to protect themselves from Muslim Arabs during the Arab-Byzantine wars between 780 and 1180 CE. The multi-level city was composed of many passages and caves lying at around 60m (197ft) under the ground and was able to shelter around 20,000 people as well as their livestock and food.

Lunch break: 12.30 to 1.30

Dinner at 8.30pm

Day 7-Cappadocia to Konya (3 hours 15 minutes, 275 km)

Meet at the lobby of the hotel after breakfast to pick up at 9.30 am



Mausoleum of Jamaluddin Rumi

The Central Anatolian City of Konya, once a capital of Anatolian Seljuk Empire, is the seventh largest city of Turkey with a population of 2.2 million. It is a pilgrimage destination for Sufis, and was the hometown for Mevlana Jelaleddin Rumi, a Persian Sufi mystic, and his master Shams Tabrezi. It is also known as lodge of whirling dervishes.

The main attraction for tourists coming from all over the world is the tomb of Mevlana Jelaleddin Rumi, built in 1274.

After couple of hours rest at the hotel we will pick you up at 14.00 hours to visit:

Mevlana Rumi's Mausoleum - 1 hour

The symbol of Konya is this tekke (Sufi lodge) complex that holds the tomb of the 13th-century religious leader, philosopher, and poet Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, who founded the whirling dervish sect of Sufism. The museum is set within lovingly tended rose gardens.

Tile Museum (Karatay Medresisi)- 1 hour

This old madrassa (theological college) was founded in 1251 by the Seljuk emir Celaleddin Karatay. The sheer beauty of this tiled building makes it one of the top attractions in Konya.

Konyanuma Panorama Museum- 1 hour

Konyanuma panorama museum shows Konya's social life in the 13th century. The Panorama Museum details the historical medreses, its mosques, the walls, the soldiers, Sultans, and houses many sculptures from various nations around the globe.

Day 8 - Konya to Pamukkale (395 km with 5 hours' drive)

Meet at the lobby of the hotel after breakfast to pick up at 9.00 am



Cotton Castle or Travertine

Drive to Pamukkale, famous for its mineral-rich hot springs and its white terraces and Cleopatra pool. Visit the Necropolis, and the ancient city of Hierapolis "Holy City," a UNESCO World Heritage Site, situated uphill from the Pamukkale hot springs. The Pamukkale hot springs have served as a therapeutic thermal spa since the 2nd century B.C. Water of Pamukkale is known to have miraculous healing powers, not only in recent times, but for thousands of years. Universities have researched and proven that it is good for skin, veins and it keeps one young.

Lunch break 12.30 to 13.30

Dinner at 8.30pm

Day 9 - Pamukkale / Sogut (360 km with 5 hours' drive)

Meet at the lobby of the hotel after breakfast to pick up at 8.00 am

One hour stopover in Sogut to visit the mausoleum of Ertugurul Ghazi



Mausoleum of Ertuğrul Gazi

Lunch break at 12.00 to 13.00

Sogut is a small town in the province of Bilecik. This town is notable as the founding location of the Ottoman Empire; given to Ertugurul Gazi (“Kayi Tribe”) by Seljuk Sultan Alaeddin Kayqubad. The Mausoleum of Ertugrul Gazi, his wife Halime Hatun and his Alps are situated here.

Sogut / Bursa (130 km with 2 hours’ drive) Probably founded in 3rd century BC, it is the fourth largest city of Turkey and the first Capital of the Ottoman Empire, conquered by Sultan Orhan Gazi, son of Osman Gazi, founder of Ottoman Empire.

On arrival in Bursa, you will be on your own to explore the areas around the hotel and or the city.

Dinner at 8.30

Day 10 Bursa



View of Bursa

Meet at the lobby of the hotel after breakfast to pick up at 9.00 am

Tour of the city includes:

- Mausoleums of Osman Ghazi, founder of the Ottoman Empire and his son Orhan Ghazi.
- Green Mosque (built in 1424 by Sultan Mehmet Celebi).
- Ulu Mosque, also called Grand Mosque of Bursa (built in 1399 by Sultan Bayezid I).
- Covered/Silk market, famous for its silk and gold shops, next to Ulu Mosque (built in 1335 by Orhan Bey).

Lunch break: 13.30 to 14.00

Leave Bursa after lunch to arrive in Istanbul at 5.00 pm

Bursa/Istanbul: (About 169 km and 2-hours' drive)

Taksim where your hotel is located:

After arriving in Istanbul, you will be staying on the European side in an area called “Taksim”. This is the liveliest part of Istanbul.

The Taksim Square is a cosmopolitan communications hub, and an important commercial, entertainment and sightseeing area for both locals and tourists. Taksim Square is also a popular meeting point, and an ideal place to conduct an Istanbul city walking tour, including a long colorful pedestrian street, also known as “Istiklal Street”. It is a 24-hour hot spot for people young and old, local, and foreign.

You will find “The Galata Tower” at the end of Istiklal street, built by the Byzantine Emperor Justinianos in 507-508AD. The Genoese rebuilt the current tower in 1348-49, it is a medieval stone tower with cone-capped cylinder that dominates the skyline and offers a panoramic view of Istanbul. It is a nine-story tower with an observation deck and was the city’s tallest structure at the time it was built. Year 1717 AD onwards, the Ottomans used the tower for assessing the incoming naval threats coming up the Bosphorus, in addition to spotting city and forest fires.

Day 11 - Istanbul

Depart for the Airport. Time to be decided depending on the flight timings.

PRICES and Terms of Payment: Per Person Prices in US\$’s

Number of Persons

	Double Room
2-3	3,850
4-5	2,575
6-7	2,150
8-9	2,025
10-15	1,850
16-19	1,675
20-24	1,575
25-29	1,500
30-40	1,450
For Single Room: Add	530
For Triple Room: Deduct	(150)
Children under 2 are FREE (No extra bed)	
Children 3-11	425

- The prices are valid from 1 April to 31 October 2022.
- Full Payment for the tour needs to be made in advance at the time of booking at least one 21 days before the start of the tour.

Please refer to us if you want to have a custom designed tour package according to your preferences.

Please contact us for Turkish Air Lines air ticket to Istanbul, which we can offer at competitive price through our business partners.

Hotels where you stay:

1. ISTANBUL - Somerset 3 nights/Bed and Breakfast (BB)
<https://www.discoverasr.com/en/somerset-serviced-residence/turkey/somerset-maslak-istanbul>
2. CAPPADOCIA – Double Tree by Hilton 3 nights/ Breakfast and Dinner (HB)
<https://www.hilton.com.tr/oteller/turkiye/nevsehir/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-avanos-cappadocia>
4. KONYA – Anemon 1 nights/ Breakfast and Dinner (HB)
<https://www.anemonhotels.com/en/default.aspx>
5. PAMUKKALE – Lycus River 1 night/ Breakfast and Dinner (HB)
<https://lycusriver.com/home.php>
6. BURSA – Hilton 1 night/Breakfast and Dinner (HB)
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/btzhhi-hilton-bursa-convention-center-and-spa/>
7. ISTANBUL – Eresin Taxim 1 night/ Bed and Breakfast (BB)
<https://www.eresin.com.tr/eresinpremier>

or similar Hotels depending on availability.

Hotel accommodations: Bed and Breakfast in Istanbul, Half Board (Breakfast + Dinner) in other cities.

Note: All the above hotels are certified as safe for tourism by the ministry.

What is included:

- Transfer from/to the airport and hotel.
- Bosphorous cruise with dinner in Istanbul.
- Transportation by luxury air-conditioned coaches
- Breakfast and dinner included for cities outside Istanbul
- A qualified English-speaking tour guides will be provided throughout the tour
- Help desk located in Istanbul speaking English, Turkish, Urdu, and Hindi languages will be available to assist you throughout your stay in Turkey
- Museum entrance fees.

What is excluded:

- Flight ticket to Istanbul from your home country and back
- Visa and related expenses
- Tips and personal expenses
- Lunches and Dinners in Istanbul except for during the Bosphorus tour.
- Insurance coverage & Medical expenses incurred during the tour
- Expenses incurred including treatment and quarantine in case you are tested Covid-19 positive during the tour.
- PCR Tests cost, which is around TL 250 per person, if required by your home country.
- Force majeure