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Istanbul Transit Tour (3 nights/4 days)

ISTANBUL: A Cradle of Civilization Waiting Explorers

Day 1 - Arrival in Istanbul-Istanbul Airport:

On arrival you will be received by a friendly Mavi Tour representative to drive you to the hotel. Please share with us your flight details.

No tour will be organized this day for you to rest, relax and overcome the jet lag. You are free to explore the city or nearby places to hotel on your own.

About Istanbul:

The foundation of Istanbul (Constantinople) was laid in 330 AD and is also called a city of seven hills, Istanbul is the largest city and the country's economic, cultural, and historic center. The city is divided by strait of Bosphorus into Europe and Asia with a population of over 16 million residents, comprising 19% of the population of Turkey.



Taksim Square, Istiklal Street

Day 2 - Istanbul

Pick up from the hotel after breakfast at 9.00am

Tour of the old city to visit historical sites of:

- Topkapi Palace (Built in 1460 by Fatih Sultan Mehmet)
- Hagia Sophia (Built in 537 by Byzantine Emperor Constantius, the first dome structure in the world)
- Blue Mosque (Built in 1609 by Sultan Ahmet)
- Hippodrome (Built by Roman Emperor Severus in early 3rd Century)
- Cistern (underground water storage system built by the Byzantines to supply water to the city).

Lunch break: 12.00- 13.00.

Tour ends at 17.00 hours and the bus will take you to the hotel.

You can visit on your own to explore the city including Galata Port, shopping malls, Ortakoy, Camlica mosque, Istiklal street and Galata Tower etc.



Old City : Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque

Day 3 - Istanbul

Pick up from the hotel after breakfast at 9.30am to visit the historical sites of:

- **Dolmabahce Palace:**

Dolmabahçe Palace was built between years 1843-1856 by the Empire's 31st Sultan Abdulmecid I at cost of \$1.9 billion. The palace was home to six Sultans from 1856, when it was first inhabited, up until the abolition of the Caliphate in 1924. Atatürk spent the last days of his medical treatment in this palace, where he died on November 10, 1938.

Dolmabahçe is the largest palace in Turkey. It has an area of 45,000 m² (11.1 acres), and contains 285 rooms, 46 halls, 6 baths and 68 toilets. The world's largest Bohemian crystal chandelier is in the Ceremonial Hall. The chandelier was originally assumed to have been a gift from Queen Victoria: in 2006, however, a receipt was discovered showing it had been paid for in full by the Sultan. It has 750 lamps and weighs 4.5 tonnes.

Dolmabahçe has the largest collection of Bohemian and Baccarat crystal chandeliers in the world. The famous *Crystal Staircase* has the shape of a double horseshoe and is built of Baccarat crystal, brass and mahogany.

Expensive stones such as Proconnesian marble, Egyptian onyx-marble, and porphyry from Pergamon were and used for the decoration. The palace includes a large number of Hereke palace carpets made by the Hereke Imperial Factory. The Hereke carpet featured in the main hall happens to be the largest Hereke rug in the world. Also featured are 150-year-old bearskin rugs originally presented to the Sultan as a gift by Tsar Nicholas. I.



Dolmabahçe Palace

Lunch break 12.00-13.00. Then a short tour on the shore of Golden Horn then Covered Market.

- **Covered Market:**

Covered Bazar built in 15th century, is the oldest covered market in the world covering an area of 55,000 sq. meters having around 4,000 shops. It has 21 gates, 51 streets and around 4,000 shops selling all type of items including tiles, ceramics, gold, silver, leather goods, carpets, and kilims and many more gift items.

Tour will end 18.00 hours and will drop you back to the hotel.

You can visit on your own to explore the city including Galata Port, shopping malls, Ortakoy, Camlica mosque, Istiklal street and Galata Tower etc.

Day 4 – Istanbul / Istanbul Airport

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

Prices and Terms of Payment:

Per Passenger Prices in US Dollars

Number of Passengers:	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10/15
1. Per Person in DOUBLE room :	770	530	450	440	420
2. Per Person in SINGLE room :	1,000	770	690	680	650
3. Per Person in TRIPLE room :	750	520	440	430	400
4. Child 0-2 years old FREE (no bed):					
5. 3-11 years old \$ 335:					

The payment must be made to Mavi Tours, USA 21 days prior to the booking/ departure date.

Rates are valid from 1st April to 31st October 2022.

Hotel:

Eresin Hotels Taxim Premier a 4-star hotel (3 nights/Bed and Breakfast) or similar Hotels depending on availability.

Note that all the hotels in Turkey are certified as safe for tourism.

What is included:

- Hotel accommodation in Istanbul – 3 nights with Bed and Breakfast.
- Transportation by luxury air-conditioned minibus including pick and drop from the airport.
- A qualified/Licensed English-speaking tour guide will be provided throughout the tour
- Museum entrance fees.
- Help desk located in Istanbul speaking English, Turkish, Urdu, and Hindi languages will be available to assist you at cell number +90 533 634 95 15.

What is excluded:

- Air ticket from/to from your home country to the destination.
- Visa and related expenses
- Lunches and Dinners and drinks
- Tips to the driver
- Medical Insurance and cost incurred due to medical condition and emergency medical treatment.
- PCR test cost, if required including quarantine expense incurred, if any, if tested Covid Positive.
- Force majeure