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Istanbul, Bursa and Sogut (Ertugrul Ghazi Mausoleum) (5 days/4 nights)

ISTANBUL: A Cradle of Civilization Awaits Explorers

Day 1 - Arrival in Istanbul-Istanbul Airport:

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

About Istanbul:

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

HOTEL'S LOCATION: TAKSIM

Eresin Hotel is in **Taksim Square** which 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 the walking street also known as "Istiklal Street".

Popular tourist places in Taksim includes mosque, restaurants, pubs, bars and cafes, sights, museums are in the square's vicinity. It is a long colorful pedestrian street, full of shops, restaurants, cafes, and street shows. 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, first 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.



Taksim Square, Istiklal Street

Day 2 - Istanbul

Meet at the lobby at 8:30 am. Pick up time from hotel: 9:00 am

Tour of the old city including historical sites of:

- Topkapi Palace (Built in 1460 by Fatih Sultan Mehmet)
- Hagia Sophia Mosque (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)
- Basilica Cistern (Built in by Emperor Severus in early 3rd century)

Note: Due to pandemic, some sites may be closed by ministry of tourism.

Lunch break: 12.00- 13.00.

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



Old City : Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque

Day 3 - Istanbul

Meet at the lobby 9:00 am. Pick up time from hotel: 09:30 am

This will be sight-seeing tour of Istanbul including stops to see:

1. Dolmabahce 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 centre of the hall, the world's largest Bohemian crystal chandelier can be found; it was a gift from Queen Victoria, however, later on a receipt has been found as evidence that it has been fully 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

2. Lunch break 12.00-13.00. After lunch a short tour on the shore of Golden Horn, followed by a tour of the Covered Market.
3. **Covered Market:** Covered Bazar, built in 15th century, is the oldest and 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, and kilims and myriad other gift items.

Tour will end 18.00 hours.

Day 4 Istanbul / Bursa/Sogut/Istanbul-Day trip

BURSA by Luxury bus. 169 km from Istanbul, a 2 hours' drive

Meet at the lobby 8:30 am. Pick up time from hotel: 9.00 am

Bursa was probably founded in 3rd century BC; it is the fourth largest city of Turkey. It was the first Capital of the Ottoman Empire, conquered by Sultan Orhan Gazi, son of Osman Gazi, and the founder of Ottoman Empire.

Tour of the city includes:

- Mausoleums of Osman (Founder of Ottoman Empire) and his son Orhan Gazi.
- Green Mosque (built in 1424 by Sultan Mehmet Celebi).
- Ulugu 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 Ulugu Mosque (built in 1335 by Orhan Bey).

Lunch break: 12.30 to 1.30

Sogut (Mausoleum of Ertugurul Ghazi): It is about 2 hours' drive from Bursa to Sogut.

Sogut is a small town in the province of Bilecik. This town is notable as the founding place of 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 located here.



View of Bursa

Back to Istanbul: It is about 31/2 hours' drive from Sogut to Istanbul.

Stay to the hotel in Taksim area overnight.

Day 5 – Istanbul / Istanbul Airport

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

PRICES and CONDITIONS: (Per Person in US\$'s)

Number of Persons:	Single	Double	Triple
2-3	1,400	1,050	1,040
4-5	1,090	745	730
6-7	975	635	620
8-9	965	620	605
10-15	920	575	560

Children up to 2 years are FREE: (No extra bed)

Children 3-11 years old: \$500

The prices are valid from 1st April to 31st October 2022.

1. The payment for the tour needs to be paid in advance at the time of booking at least 21 days prior to the start of the tour.
2. Please contact us if you want us to custom designed the tour to suit your preferences.
3. Please contact us for Turkish Air Lines air ticket to Istanbul, which we can offer at competitive price through our business partners.

Hotel:

Eresin Hotels Taxim <https://www.eresin.com.tr/eresinpremier> (4-star hotel) 4 nights with Bed & Breakfast Or similar Hotels depending on availability.

Note: All the hotels in Turkey are certified as safe for tourism.

What is included:

1. Hotel accommodation in Istanbul – 4 nights (Bed and Breakfast)
2. Transportation by luxury air-conditioned minibus/Midibus or Bus including airport/hotel transfers
3. A qualified/Licensed English-speaking tour guide will be provided throughout the tour
4. Local contact available speaking English, Turkish, Urdu and Hindi to assist you throughout the tour at cell number +90 533 634 95 15
5. Museum entrance fees are included in the price.

What is excluded:

1. Flight ticket from home country to Istanbul and back.
2. Visa and related expenses
3. Tips and personal expenses
4. Lunches and Dinners
5. Insurance & medical expenses incurred during the period of tour.
6. Expenses incurred including treatment and quarantine in case you are tested Covid-19 positive during the tour.
7. PCR Tests which cost around TL 250 per person, if required by your home country.