

Treasures of Turkey

Trip Map



Start Location

End Location

Over night

Visited Location

Cruise

Ferry

Plane

Train

Day 1 | Arrive Istanbul



Cue the exotic music. It's the perfect pairing to your first day in Istanbul, a sprawling metropolis which has connected Europe and Asia for centuries. The former centre of the Old World appears cloaked in mystery, but you won't need to dig deep to discover its dramatic history and vibrant melting pot of cultures, remnants of which can be seen throughout the city's well-preserved façades. On arrival, you'll be transferred to your hotel and later meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a glimpse of what lies ahead. Tonight, seek out the best terrace in town for illuminated views of the city's rooftops right down to the Bosphorus.

Hotel: Titanic Port Bakırköy

Day 2 | Istanbul sightseeing and free time



The 'Pearl of the Orient' reveals her hidden treasures this morning as you join your Travel Director for a visit to the Byzantine Hippodrome. Just as it was centuries ago, today the expansive promenade is a vibrant centre of the city's social life. Standing amidst its obelisks and statues, you can almost imagine the thundering roar of chariots cheered on by Emperor Constantine the Great, who is credited with making Istanbul a glorious replacement for Rome. See the 17th-century Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia, once the leading church in Christendom. Your afternoon and evening are free to explore Istanbul your way, but you won't want to miss an Optional Experience visit to Topkapi Palace, the lavish former home of the Ottoman sultans, and the Grand Bazaar with its dazzling displays.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Titanic Port Bakırköy

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Topkapi Palace and Grand Bazaar - Begin your city tour of mesmerizing Istanbul with a visit to Topkapi Palace, the lavish former home of the Ottoman sultans and the administrative centre of the empire, a true treasure trove in every sense. Before returning to your hotel, stroll by the colourful displays of lanterns, ceramics and fabrics that decorate the Grand Bazaar – one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets.

Adult: .00 USD

Day 3 | Istanbul – Safranbolu



Follow in the footsteps of medieval traders, taking the same journey they once took on the east-west trade route between the Black Sea and Mediterranean. You'll arrive in UNESCO-listed Safranbolu, an important caravan station whose Ottoman-style wooden houses and narrow streets once witnessed bustling trade. Join your Travel Director this afternoon for a sightseeing tour and insights into its history, starting on Hidirlik Hill for panoramic views. You'll have time to get lost in its cobbled streets and soak up the colourful sights and sounds at the Eski Carsi and Arasta Bazaar. Try your hand at haggling as a tribute to the town's trading past.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn

Day 4 | Safranbolu – Ankara - Cappadocia



Travel south to the Turkish capital, Ankara and visit the Mausoleum of Atatürk, the founder and father of the Turkish Republic. Continue to the whimsical landscapes of Cappadocia, a region famed for its unique geological features and 'troglodytes' cave dwellings. This evening you could choose to witness a real highlight by joining an Optional Experience with the Whirling Dervishes. Watch them whirl around and around in their trance-like remembrance of God – a dizzying religious custom that represents man's spiritual journey.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Ramada by Wyndham

CHOICE 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. (Drinks not included)

Adult: 58.00 USD

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

Day 5 | Cappadocia Sightseeing & Free Time



It's impossible to take a bad picture in Cappadocia. Fairy-tale rock chimneys rise up from the ochre and rust-coloured depths of Paşabağı and the Red Valley – a landscape forged by wind, rain and a volcanic touch. Visit a regional rug production centre where you'll learn how every shape and colour embedded in an intricately woven Turkish carpet tells its own story. Then enjoy an afternoon on your own amidst the fantasy landscapes left by Mother Nature in the ochre rock. An Optional Experience in Göreme reveals how Christians once worshipped in the many rock churches that remain to this day. Conclude your day with dinner at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Ramada by Wyndham

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Goreme and Avanos Sightseeing - First settled in the Roman period, Goreme is located among Cappadocia's famous rock formations. Many rock churches can still be seen today, as Christianity was then the prevailing religion in this region. Then, you'll continue to the town of Avanos, renowned for its high-quality earthenware.

Adult: .00 USD

Day 6 | Cappadocia - Konya



See master craftsmen at work turning their pottery wheels to craft the beautiful terracotta pottery characteristic of this region this morning, before visiting Saratli Underground City. Later, on your journey to Konya, you'll see a 13th-century caravanserai. You can almost imagine the jostling of camel trains as they stopped to rest and replenish their stocks before continuing east or west along the popular trade route that winds through Cappadocia. Arriving in Konya, the home of the mystic Whirling Dervishes, learn how the village of Sille was inhabited by Greeks who lived peacefully alongside the nearby Turks of Konya for over eight centuries. You'll see remnants of their heritage in the landmarks that remain.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Ibis Konya (Konya, Turkey)

Day 7 | Konya – Antalya



You'll visit the final resting place of the Sufi philosopher Mevlana to gain insights into the traditions and rituals of the Sufi religion, see remnants of their heritage in the landmarks that remain, before heading to Antalya on the Turquoise Coast for an orientation. After an orientation spend the rest of the day getting lost in Antalya's labyrinthine cobbled lanes. This evening, you could choose to sample the local Antalyan dishes at a favourite restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Best Western Khan (Antalya, Turkey)

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Antalya Turkish Kebab Dinner (excluding drinks) - It is possible to see many traditional home foods, which are made by the experienced cooks, in the various restaurants lined up from the smallest settlement areas up to the big cities. However, today is the day to try a legendary food both for Turkey and for the Middle East, and that is "kebab". You will have the chance of sampling various kinds of 'meze' with traditional tastes. Vegetarians should not worry at all as your Travel Director knows the ways that will satisfy your palate.

Adult: 47.00 USD

* Drinks not included.

Day 8 | Antalya free time



Ease into the laid-back seaside vibes of Antalya on this full free day dedicated to soaking up sun-kissed Mediterranean shores. If you can drag yourself away from your sun lounger, we recommend joining an Optional Experience cruise along the glittering coast. This afternoon, an optional journey into antiquity could see you visit the Aspendos Theatre, built in the second century and dedicated to 'the gods of this country and to the Imperial house'. Also included on this optional afternoon excursion is a visit to the Roman Aqueduct, the Kursunlu Waterfall and the Aspendos Bridge, spanning the Eurymedon River.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Best Western Khan (Antalya, Turkey)

CHOICE 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: 46.00 USD

Aspendos Theatre, Roman Aqueduct, the Ottoman Bridge and Kursunlu Waterfall - Witness the world's best-preserved theatre of antiquity during your first stop in Aspendos this morning. Learn more as you explore the Roman Aqueduct and the Ottoman bridge together with your fellow travellers. Before leaving the area and driving back to your hotel see Kursunlu Waterfall.

Adult: .00 USD

Day 9 | Antalya – Pamukkale



The powdery white sands and crystal-clear water of Lake Salda provide a beautiful backdrop for a quick photo stop today. Besides being noteworthy as a popular tourist resort and archaeological site, the lake is one of only two places in the world said to have similar rock structures to the planet Mars. Contemplate life in outer space before continuing to Kaklik Cave with its sparkling white travertines, before heading for the cotton fortress of Pamukkale.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Richmond Thermal

Day 10 | Pamukkale – Izmir



The ethereal white pools and terraces that cascade down surrounding cliffs are a sight to behold this morning as you see the ruins of the ancient Roman health spa of Hierapolis. Head west to the Aegean coastline, arriving in Izmir in time to spend some time exploring this pretty port town, with its lengthy promenade. Learn about its multicultural past, and its history as a Greek city. Consider joining an optional seafood dinner at a favourite local restaurant renowned for its stunning views.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton Alsancak

CHOICE 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. Don't worry, there are great options for those who don't like seafood too! (Drinks not included)

Adult: 52.00 USD

Day 11 | Izmir free time



Today is free for you to enjoy at leisure or our Optional Experience could see you visit Ephesus, a 2,000-year-old site and home to the iconic Library of Celsus and Hadrian's Temple. Included in this experience is a visit to the stone cottage, where the Virgin Mary is said to have spent her final years before a lunch is a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton Alsancak

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Ephesus, Virgin Mary with lunch - Stroll through the ruins of one of the most important cities in the ancient Mediterranean world, Ephesus. You'll explore this 2,000-year-old ancient settlement by walking through the colonnaded Arcadian Way and see the amazingly intact façade of the Library of Celcus and the huge Amphitheatre. Then head to the House of the Virgin Mary at Mt. Koressos, spectacularly situated above the Ephesus ruins. Lunch today will be served at a local restaurant. (Drinks not included).

Adult: 90.00 USD

Day 12 | Izmir – Çanakkale



Ancient legends and symbols take centre stage today. Your first stop this morning is in Pergamon, famed for its Asclepion Medical Centre, which still bears the image of the snake-entwined staff that remains a symbol of medicine in modern times. Next on today's agenda is a visit to Troy, the ancient city that inspired Homer's tales about the wrath of Achilles and the famous siege, which was broken through the clever construction of a wooden Trojan horse. A replica of the horse can still be seen today. Continue to Çanakkale later.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Büyük Truva Hotel Çanakkale

Day 13 | Çanakkale – Istanbul



Pay tribute to the brave soldiers who lost their lives in the World War I battles at Gallipoli. You'll visit Anzac Cove, Lone Pine Cemetery and Chunuk Bair, before returning to Istanbul. As your journey through Turkey draws to a close, you'll want to consider joining your new friends for an optional cruise along the Bosphorus, celebrating the mighty waterway which serves as the boundary between Europe and Asia. See grand fortresses, palaces and 19th-century mansions of the Ottoman elite that line this busy strait.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Ramada Plaza City Center

CHOICE OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Traditional Bosphorus Cruise - No tour of Istanbul would be complete without a cruise along the Bosphorus Strait, a winding waterway separating Europe and Asia. Boasting unbeatable views of the cityscape, you'll see a beautiful mixture of modern hotels, ancient wooden villas, marble palaces, fortresses and small fishing villages as you kick back on board with your camera in hand.

Adult: .00 USD

Day 14 | Depart Istanbul



Your in-depth exploration of Turkey with its cultural and historic treasures has come to an end. You've stood amidst man-made wonders and ethereal landscapes, walked in the footsteps of traders and Whirling Dervishes and forged special memories with new friends. For now it's time to end this chapter with a heartfelt farewell to your newfound friends. Find out more about your available transfers at costsavertour.com/transfers.

Meals: Breakfast