



TURKEY THROUGH THE AGES

11 DAYS + from \$7,899 + Small Groups of Never More than 16 Guests or Travel Privately

Our Distinctive A+R Style

- + Delight in a private cruise on the Bosphorus between wonderful views of Europe and Asia.
- + Soar above Cappadocia's unearthly landscapes by balloon in the early morning light.
- + Thrill to the music and dance of the Whirling Dervishes in a beautiful setting.
- + Enjoy fine Turkish cuisine in a variety of atmospheric restaurants.
- + Experience local Turkish hospitality in private homes.
- + Admire ancient frescoes and tunnels created by early Christians to hide from the Romans and Ottomans.

OUR JOURNEY

📍 Visit 6 UNESCO World Heritage sites

DAY 1 | *Welcome to Istanbul*

You'll be warmly greeted and chauffeured to our 5-star hotel, *Four Seasons Sultanahmet*, ideally located in the heart of Istanbul's Old City. The balance of this day is yours to relax and enjoy as you wish.

DAY 2 | *Explore Istanbul*

This bustling city on the Bosphorus presents an intoxicating blend of cultures and traditions. With our expert native Trip Leader, today begins at the Hippodrome, site of the ancient Byzantine stadium. We'll visit the 17th Century Blue Mosque 🕌, its interior decorated with 20,000 blue Iznik

tiles, and St. Sophia 🕌, the Church of Divine Wisdom, dedicated in 537, now once again a mosque. Lunch is at Giritli, known for its blend of Turkish cuisine and the chef's favorite dishes from her home island of Crete. Later, we'll descend into the city's largest underground cistern with 336 marble columns! Our day ends with a private cruise along the Bosphorus followed by a Welcome Dinner at Ali Ocakbasi Oligark. MEALS B+L+D

DAY 3 | *Topkapi Palace + Grand Bazaar + Egyptian Market*

We begin at Topkapi 🕌, the palace of the Ottoman Sultans, concubines and eunuchs where we'll visit pavilions, kitchens, audience chambers and its iconic Harem. In the Treasury, we'll

discover a glittering collection including crown jewels and even a hair of The Prophet. Next, we'll explore the labyrinthine passageways of the Grand Bazaar and the Egyptian Market. **MEALS B**

DAY 4 | **Cappadocia's 'Fairy Chimneys' + The Whirling Dervishes**

This morning we fly to Kayseri in central Turkey. On arrival, we head to the Goreme Open-Air Museum and explore a complex of painted cave churches created by monks 1,000 years ago. Cappadocia is famed for its unusual rock formations, deep valleys and "Fairy Chimneys" named for their whimsical silhouettes. This evening begins with the marvelous music and dance of the Whirling Dervishes, followers of the Sufi poet Rumi who demonstrate through spinning how to unify mankind in the love of God. Afterward, we'll enjoy dinner in the home of a Cappadocian family before our first of two nights at the **Argos**, an enchanting boutique hotel in a hilltop village. **MEALS B+L+D**

DAY 5 | **Above and below Cappadocia**

Rise early for our hot air balloon flight over the rock formations and remote valleys of Cappadocia; floating silently above this amazing landscape is a singular experience you will long remember. We'll return to the **Argos** for breakfast and enjoy morning tea at a cave home in one of the 'Fairy Chimneys.' Then, we'll descend into the passageways of Kaymakli Underground City, built by early Christians to protect against the Romans. Tonight, we'll dine at Elai set in a historic building and known for its distinctive fusion of Turkish, Mediterranean and European cuisines. **MEALS B+L+D**

DAY 6 | **Izmir**

This morning, we'll fly to Izmir on Turkey's Aegean coast where we'll be met and chauffeured to the 5-star **Marriott Izmir**. The balance of the day is at leisure. **MEALS B**

DAY 7 | **Excursion to Ephesus**

Ephesus was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. We'll walk along ancient marble-paved roadways, still marked by chariot wheels, to visit the expansive Forum, the Baths of Scholastica, the magnificent façade of the Library of Celsus and the great amphitheater where Paul preached to the Ephesians. We'll also visit a house where some believe the Virgin Mary spent the last years of her life. Later, we'll stop at Urla Vineyards to taste its fine wines before dinner at Adabeyi in a waterfront building designed by Alexander Gustave Eiffel. **MEALS B+L+D**

DAY 8 | **Onward to Bodrum**

Enjoy the scenery as we travel south to Bodrum, stopping along the way on the 3-hour drive. We'll enjoy two nights at the luxury **Kempinski Barbaros Bay Bodrum** in select Sea View accommodations. **MEALS B**

DAY 9 | **The Turquoise Coast**

We've chartered a crewed gulet today to explore Turkey's spectacular Turquoise Coast and to enjoy lunch on-board, even a swim if you like. **MEALS B+L**

DAY 10 | **Return to Istanbul**

We'll fly back to Istanbul and return to our luxury hotel with the afternoon at leisure. Dinner is at Firuze Meyhane, overlooking the Bosphorus. **MEALS B+D**

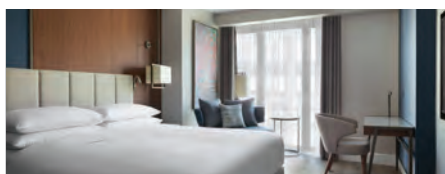
DAY 11 | **Depart Istanbul**

We'll be chauffeured to the airport today for onward flights. **MEALS B**

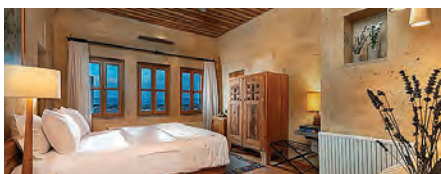
Fine Hotels in Great Locations



ISTANBUL - FOUR SEASONS SULTANAHMET
Near the Blue Mosque, a luxurious, renovated hotel with historical charm.



IZMIR - MARRIOTT IZMIR
On the Aegean in the city center, a fine 5-star hotel with spacious guestrooms.



CAPPADOCIA - ARGOS INN
Set on the site of an ancient monastery, no two rooms at our evocative hotel are alike – but all capture the heritage and spirit of Cappadocia.



KEMPINSKI BARBAROS BAY BODRUM
A luxury seaside resort with extensive amenities and spacious private balconies.

11 DAYS FROM ~~\$8,399~~ **\$7,899**

OUR ORIGINAL JOURNEY **Value**

- + Comprehensive sightseeing with never more than 16 guests plus all entry fees
- + 20 meals: 10 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners
- + 10 nights in our carefully selected deluxe and luxury hotels
- + All on-tour transportation including airport transfers and three internal flights
- + Luggage handling, all hotel taxes and service charges
- + All gratuities, except for your Trip Leader
- + 4 or more guests save \$100 each
- + Solo guests enjoy double occupancy accommodations throughout

2023-2024 Rates LAND ONLY PER PERSON

Never More than 16 Guests

2023	DOUBLE	SOLO SUPPLEMENT
May 16, Jun 13, Jul 18		
Sep 12, Oct 3	\$8,399	\$3,700
2024		
Apr 23	\$8,499	\$3,700

Travel Privately Any Day

2023-2024	DOUBLE	SOLO SUPPLEMENT
Jan - Dec	\$10,699	\$3,700

Save up to \$1,000 per couple | \$500 solo when you pay in full at time of booking



Enjoy a gulet cruise along the Turquoise Coast.