

11-DAY ISTANBUL ICONS & AEGEAN ARTIFACTS VIA THE CORINTH CANAL CRUISE TOUR

ATHENS TO ISTANBUL

POST CRUISE LAND TOUR – 3 DAYS

WITH THREE DAYS TO EXPLORE glorious Istanbul and another eight to discover what lies beyond the Golden Horn, you don't need an oracle to tell you this is one auspicious voyage. Everywhere you look in Istanbul you'll find some fascinating remnant of days gone by – places where chariots raced, sultans ruled, and architects' greatest aspirations were realized. After you've oohed and aahed over the world-renowned mosques, palaces, and bazaars, board your yacht to see more jewels of the Aegean. Islands glowing with whitewashed houses and blue-domed churches; origin stories of gods, oracles, and Atlantis; a canal so narrow you'll only share it with small mail boats, private yachts, and paddleboarders. Plus, enjoy a complimentary Destination Discovery Event – dinner and a concert in the moonlight in ancient Ephesus.

Please note: Bring your hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, insect repellent, and comfortable walking shoes. This tour is not wheelchair accessible and is not suitable for people with mobility issues. Order of sites visited may vary based on availability and dates.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' accommodation at Pera Palace Hotel in a Deluxe Golden Horn Room
- Breakfast at the hotel, lunch at Hamdi Restaurant
- All transfers to and from the included sites
- Two full days and one half day sightseeing in a luxury air conditioned vehicle with a professional driver and English-speaking tour guide
- 2-hour Bosphorus cruise on a private motor boat
- Entrance fees to Byzantine Hippodrome, Topkapi Palace, Serefiye Cistern, Suleymaniye Mosque, Dolmabahce Palace, Ayasofya, and Rustem Pasa Mosque
- 8-day cruise between Athens and Istanbul

DAY TO DAY – POST CRUISE LAND TOUR



DAY 9 – Disembark and Istanbul Sightseeing

Following disembarkation, meet your guide at the port and depart to the old city for a full day of sightseeing starting with a scenic drive across the Galata Bridge into the heart of Istanbul, where the historic area of Istanbul is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the newly restored Serefiye Cistern, one of the greatest surviving examples of Byzantine architecture. Visit the Byzantine Hippodrome, one of the largest chariot race grounds of the Byzantine Empire. See the Egyptian Obelisk, Serpentine Column, and Constantine Column. View the Blue Mosque, with its six elegant minarets and exceptional

Iznik tile work inside. Visit one of the greatest buildings in the world: St. Sophia Mosque, built in AD 537, the greatest church in Christendom until 1453. Lunch is on your own possibly at recommended Konyali Restaurant. Enter the magnificent Topkapi Palace Museum, located on the promontory between the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. At the end of the day, you will be transferred to the hotel. Dinner is suggested at Mikla Restaurant (in walking distance).

(Includes overnight at Pera Palace Hotel.)



DAY 10 – Istanbul Full Day of Sightseeing

After breakfast, meet your professional guide in the lobby for your private sightseeing tour. Visit the beautiful Dolmabahçe Palace. Stretching over 1,960 feet on the shore of the Bosphorus Strait, the palace stands as a symbol of glamour and decadence. Tour through the Palace, considered the grandest of all the Ottoman imperial palaces boasting 43 large salons, a 4.5-ton Bohemian crystal chandelier and a glass façade that measures over 3,000 feet long. Drive to visit the Suleymaniye Mosque, situated atop one of the city's seven hills. Among its innovative construction features were the use of Juniper trees to absorb the

shock of earthquakes and 255 pots suspended from the central dome to provide better acoustics and thermal insulation. Return to the hotel for some time on your own. In the late afternoon, meet your guide for a short drive to the Kabatas Pier to embark your motor yacht. This relaxing tour features a 2-hour motor yacht cruise along the Bosphorus waterway, with excellent views of the Asiatic and European shores. Enjoy views of the Dolmabahçe Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace, and the few remaining towers of the Anadolu fortress. Passing underneath the Sultan Mehmet Bridge find Rumeli Fortress. Istanbul has one of the loveliest skylines in the world and is without doubt a city built to be appreciated from the water. A refreshment of coffee, tea or local soft drink and local wine will be served during your cruise. At the end of the cruise, transfer to Sunset Restaurant where dinner is suggested and return to your hotel.

(Includes breakfast and overnight at Pera Palace Hotel.)



DAY 11 – Istanbul Full Day of Sightseeing

After breakfast, meet your professional guide in the lobby for your private full day of sightseeing. Visit the famous Grand Bazaar, where you will explore some of its 64 streets. A variety of Turkish handicrafts, oriental carpets, rare jewels and inexpensive souvenirs are all sold in its small shops. You may also enjoy an optional private carpet weaving session in a collector's gallery. Lunch will be served at Hamdi Restaurant. After lunch, visit the Rustem Pasa Mosque, a beautiful newly restored mosque where most of the interior is covered with Iznik tiles. Visit the Spice Bazaar, an exotic trading house for dried herbs,

spices and exotic condiments. You can also find colorful local produce, fresh cheeses, pickles and other Turkish specialties such as sucuk (chorizo-like sausages) and pastirma (cured beef). Stock up on saffron, Turkish apricots and freshly made Turkish delight. Dinner is suggested at Agatha Restaurant or Orient Terrace in your hotel.

(Includes breakfast, lunch and overnight at Pera Palace Hotel.)



DAY 12 – Flight Home

Breakfast at the hotel and then (according to your flight time), you will be transferred to the Istanbul Grand Airport for your homebound flight.

(Includes breakfast and transfer to the airport.)

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