

 **Central Holidays™**  
*Group Travel Experiences*



# TREASURES OF TÜRKIYE

## WHERE THE EAST MEETS THE WEST

**7 DAYS/6 NIGHTS**

**(4) ISTANBUL • (2) CAPPADOCIA**

**LAND/AIR FROM JFK - OTHER GATEWAYS AVAILABLE**

## TREASURES OF TÜRKIYE TOUR FEATURES



- **ROUND TRIP AIR TRANSPORTATION** Air transportation from New York (Additional Gateways Available)
- **FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS** Hotel accommodations for 6 nights with Daily Breakfast Included
- **SUPERB CUISINE** 11 included meals consisting of 6 buffet breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 3 dinners
- **SIGHTSEEING TOUR PROGRAM** 7 days of sightseeing in a deluxe air-conditioned vehicle with a professional driver. Includes all entrance fees to museums, parks, and historic sites as indicated in the itinerary
- **PROFESSIONAL LOCAL GUIDES** Licensed, English-speaking local guides throughout
- **PRIVATE TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE HANDLING** Private arrival and departure transfers, including baggage handling for up to two medium suitcases per person. (Please advise in advance if traveling with additional luggage.)

## DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

This 7-day journey combines the cultural splendors of Istanbul with the natural wonders of Cappadocia. Highlights include iconic landmarks such as the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapı Palace, the Grand Bazaar, and the Spice Market in Istanbul, along with time at leisure to explore the city at your own pace. In Cappadocia, marvel at surreal landscapes of fairy chimneys, visit the underground city of Kaymakli, discover rock-carved churches at the Göreme Open-Air Museum, and take part in a pottery workshop in Avanos. Optional experiences include a hot air balloon ride over Cappadocia's valleys and an evening Whirling Dervishes ceremony at Saruhan Caravanserai.

## OPTIONAL KUSADASI EXTENSION TOUR FEATURES

- **FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS** 3 nights in a standard room at a hotel in Kusadasi with daily breakfast and dinner
- **CULINARY INCLUSIONS** Daily breakfast and dinner, plus a set-menu lunch on Day 2. Bottled water provided throughout the tour
- **SIGHTSEEING TOUR PROGRAM** Entrance fees to all museums, parks, and historic sites as indicated in the itinerary
- **PRIVATE TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE HANDLING** Private arrival and departure transfers, including baggage handling for up to two medium suitcases per person





**DAY 1** ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE ————— 🍴🍷 (D)

Welcome to Turkey! Upon arrival in Istanbul, one of the most important and beautiful cities in world history, your private guide will greet you at the international terminal of Istanbul Airport, holding a sign with your group name. You will be escorted to your luxury vehicle for a private transfer to your hotel, with the opportunity to catch your first glimpses of this fascinating city where continents meet. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner and overnight stay at your hotel in Istanbul.

**DAY 2** ISTANBUL ————— 🍴🍷 (B,L)

After breakfast, begin your exploration at the Hippodrome of Constantinople, once the sporting and social center of the Byzantine Empire. Continue to the Blue Mosque, also known as the Mosque of Sultan Ahmed, famed for its stunning blue tiles and built during the reign of Ahmed I between 1609 and 1616. Enjoy a set-menu lunch at a local restaurant before visiting St. Sophia, the Church of Divine Wisdom, built during Emperor Justinian’s reign in 537 AD and later converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest in 1453. The day concludes with a visit to the Grand Bazaar, the vast covered market with nearly 4,000 shops offering antiques, jewelry, carpets, and more. Overnight at your hotel in Istanbul.

**DAY 3** ISTANBUL ————— 🍴🍷 (B,L)

After breakfast, visit the Underground Cistern, an impressive 6th-century water reservoir with 336 marble columns, originally built to supply water to Constantinople during sieges. Continue to Topkapi Palace Museum, once the residence and administrative center of Ottoman sultans for over 400 years, and now housing treasures such as Chinese porcelain, weapons, and calligraphy. Then explore the bustling Egyptian Spice Bazaar, dating back to the 17th century and still beloved by locals for its aromatic spices and vibrant atmosphere. A set-menu lunch will be served at a local restaurant, after which the afternoon is free for leisure. Overnight in Istanbul.

**DAY 4** ISTANBUL ————— 🍴🍷 (B)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, with the rest of the day free at your leisure to explore Istanbul on your own. Overnight in Istanbul.

**DAY 5** ISTANBUL - CAPPADOCIA ————— 🍴🍷 (B,D)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to Kayseri. Upon arrival, meet your local guide and drive about an hour to Cappadocia, with visits en route. Begin at Devrent Valley, famous for its surreal rock formations, followed by Pasabag Valley, where the unique “fairy chimneys” can be seen in their most striking form. Continue to the village of Urgup, where traditional architecture blends into the rocky landscape. In the evening, transfer to your hotel for dinner and an overnight stay.

**Optional visit** to the Saruhan Caravanserai can be arranged to witness the mystical Sema Ritual performed by Whirling Dervishes.

**DAY 6** CAPPADOCIA ————— 🍴🍷 (B,D)

**Optional Visit:** For those who wish, the day can begin with an optional early morning hot air balloon flight over Cappadocia’s breathtaking valleys and rock formations. This iconic experience includes a champagne celebration and a personalized flight certificate.

After breakfast, visit Kaymakli Underground City, a remarkable multi-level complex carved by early Christians as a refuge from invaders. Continue to the Goreme Open Air Museum, home to rock-cut churches with exquisite Byzantine frescoes, and then to the pottery town of Avanos, where you will join a workshop to learn traditional pottery-making techniques using red clay from the Kizilirmak River. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Cappadocia.

**DAY 7** CAPPADOCIA TO USA OR EXTEND YOUR STAY WITH AN OPTIONAL KUSADASI EXTENSION 🍴🍷 (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Kayseri Airport for your flight to Istanbul, where you will connect to your international flight home.



TOPKAPI PALACE



CAPPADOCIA



## OPTIONAL KUSADASI EXTENSION

### DAY 7 CAPPADOCIA - KUSADASI ———— 🍴🍷 (D)

Arrive in Izmir, where you will be met by your Aventura World English-speaking assistant holding a name sign outside the luggage claim area. Transfer by private vehicle to your hotel in Kusadasi. Enjoy dinner and an overnight stay at the hotel.

### DAY 8 KUSADASI - EPHEBUS ———— 🍴🍷 (B,L,D)

Following breakfast, embark on a journey to the vast ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus, one of the largest open-air archaeological museums in the world. Passing through the Magnesian Gate, explore remnants of the Hellenistic, Roman, and Early Christian eras, including the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved Street of the Kouretes, the Thermal Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Houses of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, Hadrian's Temple, and the Great Theatre. Walk along ancient roads once used by chariots, admire mosaic-paved pedestrian walkways, and marvel at the iconic two-story façade of the Library of Celsus, built between 117 and 125 AD to house papyrus scrolls. Today's unique experience begins in the town of Selçuk, near Ephesus, where you will enjoy a picnic-style lunch combined with a semi hands-on cooking class. Guests will have the chance to help prepare traditional dishes or watch local cooks at work. Lunch will be served in the garden of a local cooperative, where you will also learn about the intricate art of hand-woven Turkish carpet production—an exclusive Discovery Series event. In the afternoon, visit the House of the Virgin Mary, nestled in a serene grotto and believed to have been her residence during her final days. Officially declared a shrine of the Roman Catholic Church in 1896, it has since become a place of pilgrimage. Return to Kusadasi for dinner and an overnight stay.

### DAY 9 KUSADASI - OPTIONAL PAMUKKALE ———— 🍴🍷 (B,D)

After breakfast, enjoy a full day at leisure to relax, explore the town, or take part in an optional full-day excursion to Pamukkale, famous for its white travertine terraces and ancient ruins of Hierapolis. Dinner and overnight stay in Kusadasi.

### DAY 10 KUSADASI - DEPARTURE ———— 🍴🍷 (B)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before your private transfer to Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport for your flight to Istanbul, where you will connect to your international departure.



🍴🍷 (B) - BREAKFAST (L) - LUNCH (D) - DINNER

Please note: Though rare, it may be necessary to substitute hotels and adjust itineraries at the guide's discretion due to local conditions.

**TOUR ACTIVITY LEVEL** EASY 1 2 3 **4** 5 ACTIVE

#### Mobility Advisory:

This trip is listed as a 4 out of 5, for active physical mobility. On a daily basis, travelers will be expected to walk, unassisted, at a moderate steady pace, occasionally over difficult terrain such as uneven cobblestones. Travelers will also be expected to be able to get on and off various means of transportation, unassisted.



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