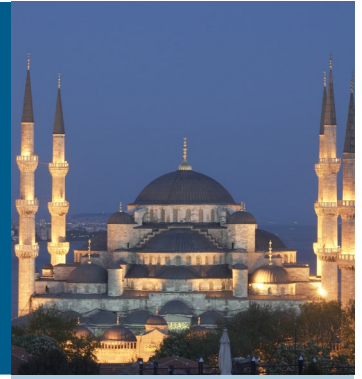
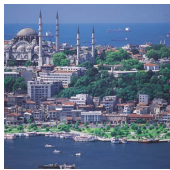


Istanbul & Cappadocia

10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS- GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY-CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



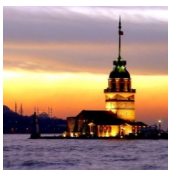
Explore the land where east meets west on this 10-day journey through Istanbul and the unusual landscape of the fascinating Cappadocia region. In Istanbul you will discover colorful bazaars and mosques decorated with exquisite mosaic designs, Oriental carpets and other treasures. In Cappadocia, you will explore underground cave cities and ancient churches carved from natural rocks. This itinerary features island cruises, remarkable ancient ruins and lovely countryside views. It is an excellent way to explore two very different sides of Turkey's East-meets-West personality.



DAY 1 ~ ISTANBUL

Welcome to Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey. Formerly called

Constantinople, Istanbul served as a former capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Upon arrival to the airport, a local assistant will meet your group in the terminal's arrival call and accompany it to the hotel by private coach. (While most hotels have official check-in times at 2:00 pm, if rooms are not ready - you and your fellow travelers are welcome to store your bags with the reception staff). During this arrival day, feel free to get situated and begin exploring this fantastic city. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel's restaurant with your travel companions.



DAY 2 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast at the hotel, your group will meet a local guide in the lobby and proceed on a full-day tour of Istanbul by private coach. During the tour, you will see the truly splendid attractions of Istanbul. Visit St. Sophia, the magnificent Byzantine Church that was pillaged by Crusaders,

converted into a mosque by the Ottomans – and today survives as fantastic museum. See the ancient Hippodrome, the former center for sports and political activities in Constantinople, as well as the Obelisk of Theodosius from Egypt, the Serpentine Column and the German Fountain. You will also see Istanbul's spectacular Blue Mosque, a magnificent 17th-century mosque famous for its six minarets and for the 25,000 blue Iznik tiles that decorate the interior.

Following a lunch break in the Old Town, you will visit Topkapý Palace. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was the official residence of the Ottoman Sultans for four centuries. The last stop on today's tour is the Grand Bazaar, which is famous for its 4,000 shops of precious handmade carpets, jewelry, leather and souvenirs. The tour will finish back at the hotel. Enjoy an evening at leisure.



DAY 3 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide for a morning visit to the Egyptian Spice Market, which was established in the 17th century. Afterwards

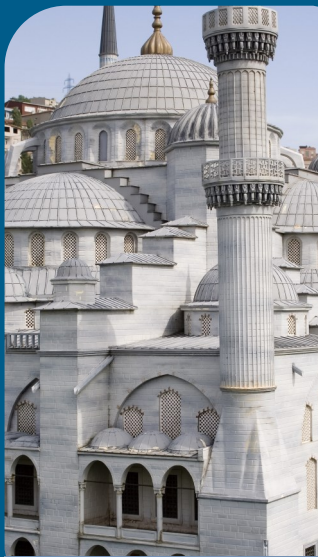
INCLUSIONS

- 6 night in Istanbul
- 3 nights in Cappadocia
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour the magnificent Blue Mosque
- Shop the fabulous Grand Bazaar
- Visit the Egyptian Spice Market
- Boat cruise between Europe and Asia viewing palaces, mansions & villas
- Turkish Night experience of traditional food, music and folk groups
- Explore Derinkuyu, the underground city of Cappadocia
- Visit the town of Avanos, famous for its earthenware pottery

EuropeExpress



you'll enjoy a boat cruise between Europe and Asia. As you cruise along - you'll enjoy views of 19th and 20th-century wooden houses, modern villas, beautiful mansions and the former Ottoman Palaces of Dolmabahce and Beylerbeyi.

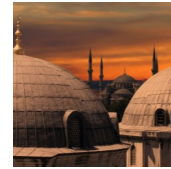
After a group lunch at a fish restaurant overlooking the Bosphorus Strait (which separates Europe and Asia), your group will continue its tour with a drive to Çamlica Hill, the highest point in Istanbul. It offers magnificent panoramic views of Istanbul and of the Bosphorus Strait. Also included on the tour is a visit to the small village of Beylerbeyi to visit the 19th-century summer palace of the Ottoman Sultans. Today it still contains the original furniture and maintains a magnificent garden. The tour will finish back at the hotel. Enjoy an evening at leisure.



DAY 4 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will meet a local guide for a full-day excursion to the city of Bursa, which was the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. Bursa is spectacularly situated at the foot of Mount Uludag - which in the time of the ancient Greeks was known as Mount Olympus. To arrive here from Istanbul, your group will catch the ferry across the Sea of Marmara to Yalova and then continue driving south to Bursa.

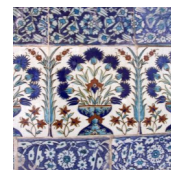
Bursa has some impressive monuments from the early Ottoman period. It is also a popular thermal springs center. Your group will have lunch in a traditional Turkish restaurant before beginning the sightseeing tour, during which you will visit the Great Mosque, the Silk Market, the Green Mosque, the Tombs of Osman & Orhan and the Muradiye Complex. Return to the hotel in Istanbul in the late evening.



DAY 5 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast, your group will depart for a half-day sightseeing tour during which your group will see Istanbul's ancient Theodosian Walls - which were commissioned by the Emperor Theodosius in the 5th century to protect the city of Constantinople - as well as the Valens Aqueduct, which was the major water source to the Eastern capital of the Roman Empire in the late 4th century. You'll also see the beautiful Chora Church, a superb example of Byzantine Church. During the Ottoman Empire, it was converted into a mosque, and today it is a secular museum.

Nearby your group will see the Palace of Blachernae, which was once an imperial palace for the Byzantine emperors. The tour will finish at the hotel, and you will have free time this afternoon to explore Istanbul before departing on for an evening dinner show. Tonight's dinner menu will consist of traditional Turkish delicacies and drinks, and the musical show will feature belly dancers, Turkish music and folk groups from various areas. Transportation can be provided to and from the venue if requested.



DAY 6 ~ ISTANBUL

After breakfast, a local guide will lead your group on a full-day excursion to the Prince Islands. During the tour you will cruise across the Sea of Marmara to the Prince Islands, docking in Büyükada, the largest of the islands and a very popular summer resort because of its lovely, sandy beaches and pinewood trees. (This was once a pleasure island of many Byzantine princes). Your group will tour the island in horse-drawn carriages before lunch (presuming your group isn't too large). In the afternoon you'll have time at leisure for



Why Should You Encourage Your Travel Agent to Book Your Group Through Us?

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Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind

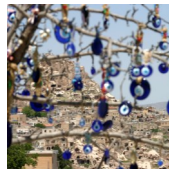


exploring the beautiful harbor area. Return to Istanbul in the afternoon. Evening at leisure.



**DAY 7 ~
CAPPADOCIA**

After breakfast, your group will transfer by private bus to Istanbul Airport for its flight to Kayseri Airport. You're traveling to the heart of Turkey. After a quick photo stop near the majestic Mount Erciyes, your group will begin visiting Cappadocia, a region of immense historic and cultural heritage in Turkey. You'll have free time to visit this region's remarkable cave churches, many of which contain incredibly well-preserved frescos. You'll see the Karabas Kilise (The Black Head Church), Yilani Kilise (Church of Snakes), Kubbeli Kilise (the Dome Church") and the 12th-century Kirksehitrler in the village of Sahinefendi. Your tour will continue with a visit to the historic Greek village of Mustafapasa, which is home to traditional stone houses with carved facades. After free time for lunch, your group will also see the region's famed "fairy chimneys" in Urgup as well as Ortahisar Castle before checking into tonight's hotel. Evening at leisure.



**DAY 8 ~
CAPPADOCIA**

After breakfast your group's guided sightseeing in Cappadocia will continue with a visit to Pigeon Valley, an area spotted with many unusual caves. From here you'll continue to Derinkuyu, an underground city where thousands of people took refuge - along with their livestock- from persecution during the Byzantine period. See the wondrous Ihlara Valley, a gorge cut into volcanic rock than spans 10 miles. Walk along this incredibly scenic valley and stop for lunch in a restaurant by the river. Our last two sightseeing inclusions before

returning back to the hotel are a visit to the Yaprakhisar village and to the Selimiye Monastery. A group dinner is arranged in the hotel tonight.



**DAY 9 ~
CAPPADOCIA**

After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy another full-day guided tour of this incredibly unique region of volcanic landscapes and "fairy chimneys." You will begin by touring the open-air museum of Göreme. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is famous for its unusual rock formations. During today's sightseeing tour your group will visit rock-carved churches that contain ancient frescoes. After free time for lunch, your group will continue its tour by traveling to the Zelve Valley, the earliest-settled and last-abandoned monastic valley.

Afterwards you'll see the natural Citadel of Uçhisar - the tallest point in the Cappadocia region - before continuing on to the town of Avanos, which is famous for its earthenware pottery and ceramic trade that dates back to the Hittites. The tour will finish up back at the hotel, and the evening is at leisure.



**DAY 10 ~
CAPPADOCIA**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Istanbul, connecting on to USA.

For information and reservations, please see your professional travel agent