

# ISTANBUL-CAPPADOCIA-ANTALYA

## Istanbul:

Istanbul is a major city in Turkey that straddles Europe and Asia across the Bosphorus Strait. Its Old City reflects cultural influences of the many empires that once ruled here. In the Sultanahmet district, the open-air, Roman-era Hippodrome was for centuries the site of chariot races, and Egyptian obelisks also remain. The iconic Byzantine Hagia Sophia features a soaring 6th-century dome and rare Christian mosaics

## Antalya:

Antalya is the eighth most populous city in Turkey and the capital of its eponymous province. Located on Anatolia's flourishing southwest coast bordered by the Taurus Mountains, Antalya is the largest Turkish city on the Mediterranean coast with over one million people in its metropolitan area.

## Cappadocia:

Cappadocia, a semi-arid region in central Turkey, is known for its distinctive “fairy chimneys,” tall, cone-shaped rock formations clustered in Monks Valley, Göreme and elsewhere. Other notable sites include Bronze Age homes carved into valley walls by troglodytes (cave dwellers) and later used as refuges by early Christians. The 100m-deep Ihlara Canyon houses numerous rock-face churches

## ITINERARY

### Day 1: DAY 01: ISTANBUL

Arrival at Istanbul International Airport Meet and assist at Airport  
Transfer to Hotel Check in hotel  
Time for rest and personal activities Overnight at hotel

### Day 2: DAY 02: ISTANBUL

Breakfast at hotel

Full Day Old City Tour: Topkapi Palace: As the administrative centre, for nearly 400 years, for the Ottoman Empire, which was one of the greatest empires of the world, Topkapi Palace is certainly the most important historical site to be visited in Istanbul. It is also one of the most frequently visited museums in Europe with more than 2.5 million visitors per

year. In 1461, less than ten years after the Conquest, Fatih Mehmet ordered the construction of Topkapi Sarayi a palace that would be known as Dar-us Saadet, the “House of Felicity”. Topkapi Sarayi remained the seat of the Ottoman Sultans until 1868 when Abdülmecit I moved to the European-style Dolmabahçe Palace farther up the Bosphorus Hagia Sophia Mosque: Hagia Sophia was built at the command of Emperor Justinian in the years 532 to 537. The courtyard of Haghia Sophia contains a number of minor but fascinating Ottoman structures.

Hippodrome: The ancient Hippodrome, the scene of chariot races and the centre of Byzantine civic life, stands in the open space in front of the Blue Mosque.

Blue Mosque: A magnificent series of domes and semi-domes, six slender minarets sprouting from the corners of the mosque, a spacious courtyard, and finally it is grand yet elegant proportions make the Blue Mosque one of the architectural marvels of the world.

Lunch at Local Restaurant.

Grand Bazaar: The Grand Bazaar was built at the command of Fatih Mehmet shortly after the Conquest. It contains 4399 shops, 2195 workshops, 497 stalls, and 18 fountains

After tour back to hotel Overnight at Hotel

### **Day 3: DAY 03: ISTANBUL-CAPPADOCIA**

Breakfast at hotel Check out from hotel

Transfer to Istanbul Airport Arrival to Kayseri Airport Meet & Greet at the airport Transfer to hotel

Check into hotel and rest time Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel

### **Day 4: DAY 04: CAPPADOCIA**

OPTIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON ( PLEASE ASK FOR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY )

Breakfast at the hotel

Full Day North Cappadocia Tour: Devrent-Pasabag ( Monk’s Valley ) : Pasabag in Cappadocia is located on the road to Zelve, coming from Goreme or Avanos. Highly remarkable earth pillars can be seen here, in the middle of a vineyard, hence the name of the place which means: the Pacha's vineyard. Pacha means "General", the military rank, in Turkish and it is a very common nick name. This site is also called Monks Valley. The name was derived from some cones carved in tuff stones which stand apart. Currently, there is a vineyard and a number of tuff cones standing right next to the road.

Avanos: The red clay from the riverbanks is excellent for traditional household pottery as

well as industrial uses such as building blocks and roof tiles. You can see pottery being made, and even take a pottery-making class and make some yourself.

**Esentepe:** The magnificent landscape around Goreme has been formed from its solidified lava streams, its ash and tuff stone, all dating from the Neocene period. A result of thousands of years of continual erosion makes this area look like a lunar landscape. The fairy chimneys also have a great colour variety. There are light and dark colours from white to yellow, pink, grey and black.

**Uchisar Castle:** The village is dominated by a huge plug of rock, a so-called kale (castle) which is mirrored in Ortahisar, a similar-sized but much less visited village just off the road from Nevsehir to Urgup.

**Goreme Open Air Museum:** This Unesco World Heritage site is an essential stop on any Cappadocian itinerary. First thought to be a Byzantine monastic settlement that housed some 20 monks, then a pilgrimage site from the 17th century, this splendid cluster of monastic Byzantine artistry with its rock-cut churches, chapels and monasteries is 1km uphill from Göreme's centre.

Lunch at Local Restaurant After tour back to hotel

Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel

## **Day 5: DAY 05: CAPPADOCIA-ANTALYA**

Breakfast at the hotel Check out from hotel Transfer to Kayseri Airport Arrival to Antalya Airport Transfer to hotel

Check into hotel and rest time Dinner and Overnight at Hotel

## **Day 6: DAY 06: ANTALYA**

Breakfast at the hotel

**Full Day Waterfall City Tour:** Kaleici: Culture, history, and nature meet in the beautiful town on the south coast of the country. Antalya has a wonderful old town to discover.

**Hadiran Gate:** Hadrian's Gate is the only remaining gate from the former city walls of Antalya. It has served as the entrance gate to Antalya's old town, to Kaleiçi, for 1,900 years.

**Yivli Minaret:** The furrowed minaret, called Yivli Minare in Turkish, is one of the first Islamic buildings in Antalya. It was probably built in 1226 or 27, during the time of Seljuk Sultan, Kai Kobad I, and is now a landmark in Antalya.

**Tunektepe Cable Car:** Antalya Teleferik delivered the first passengers to the top of Tunektepe in 2017. The cabins are new, tinted, do not creak or whistle.

**Waterfall:** Düden Waterfalls in Antalya, which is one of the most important tourism centers of our country, With its unique natural beauty, beautiful shades of green and blue, it

welcomes approximately 3 million people each year.  
Lunch at Local Restaurant After tour back to hotel  
Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel

## **Day 7: DAY 07: ANTALYA**

Breakfast at the hotel Check out from hotel  
Transfer to Antalya Airport for back to home

## **ADDITIONAL SERVICES**