

Turkish Escape

Day 1 ARRIVE IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY Welcome to Istanbul! At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

(D)ISTANBUL-NARROW-STREET.jpg

Day 2 ISTANBUL A Gateway between Orient and Occident ISTANBUL Guided sightseeing includes the Topapki Palace, Hagia Sophia, the Roman Hippodrome, Grand Bazaar and the Blue Mosque followed by a Turkish Delight tasting. (B)TOUR HIGHLIGHTCULTURE & TRADITIONS Founded by the Greeks as Byzantium more than 2,500 years ago, and finally called Istanbul after the Ottoman conquest in the 15th century, the city on the Bosphorus remains one of the most exciting places in the world. Its strategic location as a gateway between Orient and Occident, the Islamic and the Christian worlds, and the Black Sea and the Mediterranean predestined it for a turbulent yet exciting history. ISTANBUL-HAGIA-SOPHIA.jpg

Day 3 ISTANBUL–GALLIPOLI–TROY AREA Bravery on the BeachGALLIPOLI Visit the WWI battlefields on the Gallipoli peninsula, the Anzac Cemetery and the Lone Pine Memorial before crossing the Dardanelles by ferry. (B,D) 236 mi/ 380 km TOUR HIGHLIGHT HISTORY & HERITAGE Visit the moving and inspirational sites, where Allied troops, mainly Australians and New Zealanders, suffered heavy casualties in a disastrous campaign. Pay tribute to the heroes of those tragic months of 1915 at the Anzac Cemetery and the Lone Pine Memorial. GALLIPOLI.jpg

Day 4 TROY AREA–PERGAMUM–KUSADASI Trojan War TROY Enjoy a guided visitPERGAMUM Guided visit of the Askleion, a shrine to the Greek God of medicine. (B,D) 267 mi / 430 kmTOUR HIGHLIGHT HEALING THE BODY &THE SOUL Nestled between hills, the Askleion retains a sense of serenity and history. The sick approached the temple via the Sacred Way, a path that started their journey to health determined according to what dreams the patience experienced and which also included theatre shows. All of this was done in the belief that healing was a sacred art and that people's souls needed to be mended as well as their bodies.PERGAMUM.jpg

Day 5 KUSADASI–EPHESUS–PAMUKKALE Ancient Civilization Preserved EPHESUS Follow your Guide for a walk through the ancient ruins and the archaeological museum. (B,D) 137 mi / 220 kmTOUR HIGHLIGHTHISTORIC SPOTS Ephesus was one of the most famous cities of the ancient Mediterranean. It was the second biggest city of the Roman Empire and today it is one of the largest Roman archaeological sites in the eastern Mediterranean. EPHESUS.jpg

Day 6 PAMUKKALE–HIERAPOLIS–BURSA In the Shadow of Mount Olympus HIERAPOLIS Visit the thermal resort founded by a Pergamene king in 190 BCE.BURSA Visit the Great Mosque the covered bazaar and the silk market followed by a Kestane Sekeri tasting. (B) 280mi / 450 kmTOUR HIGHLIGHT ANCIENT TASTES ON THE SILK ROAD Wander through the long winding bazaar in Bursa, Turkey's centuries-old city center, taking in the sights, sounds, and smells of the buzzing marketplace. Treat your taste buds to one of the city's famous sweets, the Kestane Sekery, and find the perfect gift for yourself or a friend, a piece of authentic Bursa-made silk. BURSA-BAZAAR.jpg

Day 7 BURSA–IZNIK–ISTANBUL Ancient Walls & Ecumenical Council IZNIK Guided visit includes St. Sophia's Church and the Archaeological museumISTANBUL Farewell dinner at a local restaurant (B,D) 137 mi / 220 kmTOUR HIGHLIGHT CERAMIC BEYOND TIMES Iznik is a completely "open-air museum" with its rare ancient history and uniqueness. It is also the birthplace

of the world famous Iznik tiles – a treasured artform dating back to the Ottoman Empire.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL-TILES.jpg

Day 8 ISTANBUL Safe travels until we meet again! Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)ISTANBUL-CITYSCAPE.jpg