



A JOURNEY OF CULTURE AND HEALTHCARE



HIGHLIGHTS OF ISTANBUL

This tour starts at 09.00 and finishes around 16.00



You will be met by your guide at 09.00 at your hotel. First we will head to **Topkapi Palace** which was the opulent residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Along with stories from your guide you will live the history and feel the atmosphere of past centuries.

Then you will continue to **Hagia Sophia** by walking through a lovely alleyway full of Ottoman Houses. Hagia Sophia will amaze you with its history and the tales hiding inside. When you are inside, you will appreciate the ability of Justinian and his architects and their vision, even back in the 6th century when this was the largest church in all of Christendom.

From here you will walk to **Sultanahmet Mosque**. Built by Sultan Ahmed I in 1616. Once you walk in to the mosque you will be surrounded by magnificent 17th Century handmade blue Iznik tiles. Then you will understand why they call this gray building 'Blue' Mosque.



Our next point of interest will be the **Hippodrome** which was the main entertainment arena of Constantinople during the Roman and Byzantine era. However today you will need a little bit of imagination to picture the chariot races and the fans going crazy with the speed and excitement of them.



We will then walk to the **Grand Bazaar** just to experience the incredible and lively atmosphere.

After spending some time here we will head back to the hotel, or leave you to make the bargain of a lifetime.

We will fit our lunch break in with your wishes and the advice of the guide.

HALF DAY IN ISTANBUL - 1

You will meet your guide at 09:00 am at the lobby of your hotel.



After meeting your guide you will head to **Topkapi Palace**. This is the second palace built by Ottomans in Istanbul. This was the home of Ottoman sultans for centuries. Thus, lots of different stories are hidden at every corners of the palace.

With your guide you will visit the four courtyards of the Palace and the **Harem** section, where the ladies of the sultans stayed.

During the tour you will have chance to see Imperial Concill Room where they ruled the world from for a while, kitchens where 800 cooks used to work, Audince Hall where sultans used to receive ambassadors and viziers, Throne room which hosts to the sacred relics and the pavilions of sultans where they rested during the day.



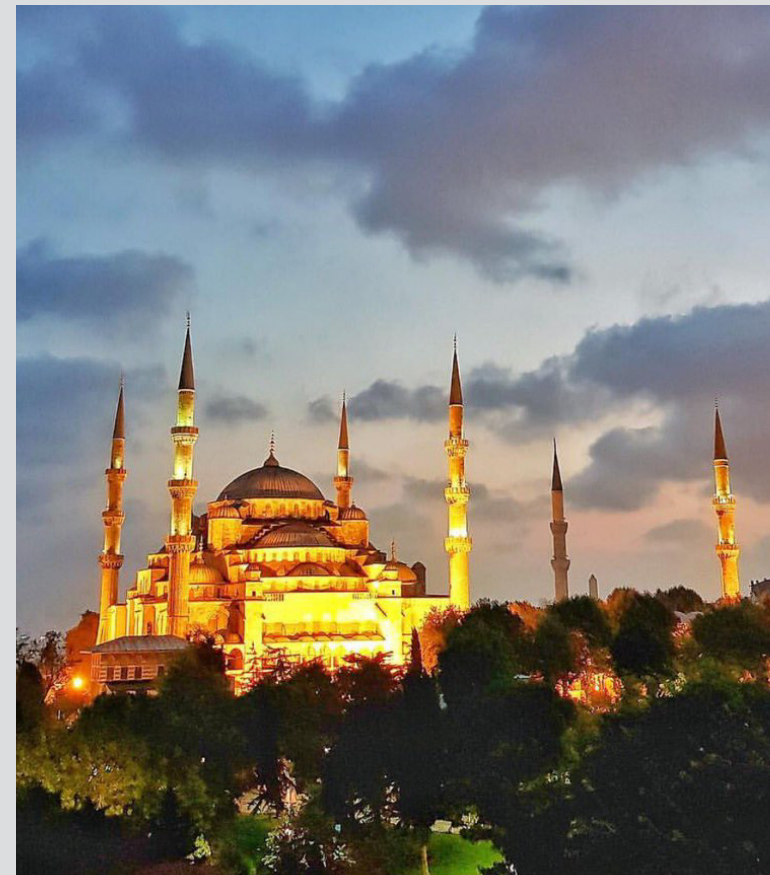
Especially the 4th section will impress you with its breathtaking Bosphorus view as well.

The tour finish around noon. So if you like to feel like sultans you can try Konyali Restaurant serving Ottoman Palace cuisine.

Your tour guide will meet you at your hotel for this tour. If your hotel is outside of the old city we will include a minivan and a driver as well.

HALF DAY IN ISTANBUL - 2

You will meet your guide at 09:00 am at the lobby of your hotel.



After meeting your guide you will first visit **Hippodrome**. When Roman Emperor Septimius Severus conquered ancient Constantinople named Byzantium in 203 CE, he named the city as Augusta Antonina and built many structures. Hippodrome was one of the significant structures built by Severus.

Then you will continue to **Blue Mosque**. It was built by Ahmet I during his short reign. With its six minarets and huge dome it stay as beautiful as its first day because of the perfect architecture.

Next stop will be **Hagia Sophia (Ayasofya)**. Thanks to Constantin the Great when the Christian free to live their religion, first Constantin started to build a monumental church here. But the one standing today is the third church built at the same location. It was built by Justinianos at 6th century as a church and became a mosque when Ottomans conquered Constantinople at 1453. And today it is one of the most visited museums of Istanbul.



The last stop, **Basilica Cistern**, was also built by Justinianos at 6th century. It was the biggest cistern to collect water of Constantinople. With its atmosphere, Medusa heads and the stories it is an important site to visit in Istanbul today. After visiting these sides you can have lunch at one of the local restaurant here and then you will be transferred to the hotel.

Your tour guide will meet you at your hotel for this tour. If your hotel is outside of the old city we will include a minivan and a driver as well.

BACK STREETS OF ISTANBUL

The tour starts at 09.00 am and finishes around 17.00



You will meet your guide at your hotel at 09.00. You will start your Back Streets of Istanbul tour with **Bayazit Square** which is surrounded by the monumental gate of Istanbul University, Bayazit Mosque and **Grand Bazaar**.

From here we will walk to the historical Golden Horn by walking through winding narrow ancient streets past old Ottoman Hans (old inns from the Silk Road era), the world famous **Grand Bazaar**, **Egyptian** or **Spice Bazaar** and **Rustempasa Mosque**, which is decorated with 16th century handmade Iznik Tiles.

When we get to the Golden Horn we will catch a ferry to Asian side of Istanbul to **Kadikoy**. Here we will explore this district on foot and walk through the local market area and try the different tastes that Istanbul offers. You can enjoy lunch here at a local restaurant as well.



After the lunch we will catch another ferry back to the European side to **Besiktas** where we will board a shared taxi (Dolmus) to **Taksim Square**. Here we will follow the famous Istiklal Street and take in the beautiful Baroque architecture and delight in the many shops and local cafes.



We walk through **Asmali Mescid, Tunel** (old funicular railway), **Galata** and eventually find our way back to **Karakoy** where we will finish the tour by **Galata Bridge** on the Golden Horn. If you like your guide can assist you back to your hotel or you can explore further afield by yourself.

DAY TRIP TO CAPPADOCIA

You will be met at the reception of your hotel early in the morning and transferred to the airport to catch your flight.



Once you get to Cappadocia your guide and private van will be waiting for you. One hour drive will bring you to the **Cappadocia**.

You will first visit **Kaymakli Underground City** which was a gate away place from the enemies. So far 36 underground cities were found in the region. Kaymakli is one of the nicest one which will give you the idea about the architecture and the reason of the existence of these underground cities.

Then you will drive to **Goreme** which is a small town at the hearth of the region. You will have lunch here and then visit Goreme Open Air Museum. This was on of the main monastery in the region with a more than 1000 years ol history. You will see some of the best frescos telling you stories from Bible.



You will also visit **Uchisar** (from outside), **Pasabag** and do panoramic view stops in between the sites to see Capapdocia from different angles.

Then you will be transferred back to the airport and catch a flight to Istanbul. When you get to Istanbul you will be transferred to your hotel.

Tour finishes when you get to your hotel in Istanbul.

If you like we can extend your stay one night if you like to experience hot air ballooning in Cappadocia

DAY TRIP TO BURSA

Departing from your hotel in Istanbul at 08:00, head directly for the port and board a ferry-boat that will take you to the city of Bursa.



The streets of Bursa, the first capital of the **Ottoman Empire**, are filled with relics of the past, including historical buildings and artifacts that tell the story of Turkish history, culture and civilization. Often called "Green Bursa," the city is also filled with lush parks and gardens, vast forests, and orchards.

Take the cable car to the **Mountain Uludağ**, where you will enjoy a barbeque lunch before visiting **Ulu Cami (Grand Mosque)**. The mosque, built between 1399 and 1400, is still the largest mosque in Bursa. There, you can admire its exquisite calligraphy and the great craftsmanship.

Afterwards, you may enjoy some famous local Turkish products, including roasted chestnuts and Turkish sweets.



Before the day is done, pay a visit to **Bursa's silk market** and then begin your journey back to Istanbul.

DAY TRIP TO EDİRNE

In the early morning, your guide will meet you at 08: 30.



In terms of the number of historical artifacts per square meter, we explore Edirne, the second city after **Florence**. The city of Trak, which gave its name to Thrace, has never lost its importance until today and Edirne is the capital city of the **Ottoman Empire**.

The most important structure of the city, which is filled with the works left by different civilizations in every corner, is **Selimiye Mosque** which is the masterpiece of Mimar Sinan. In fact, in every corner you encounter very rich buildings compared to the period in Edirne. Even though it appears to be a city on **Meriç's** side, the traces left by different cultures surprise people.

The Ottoman Empire's first architectural works and the methods applied by the period of Bayezid the 2nd. **Şifahane'nin** highlighted, the 2nd in Europe, the world's 3rd largest graves, the janissaries of the first time the win-win in this half-way hill in this tour. it will be.

After seeing the places to be visited in Edirne, we will start our journey towards Istanbul.



Places to visit in this tour; Bayezid the 2nd. Complex (Museum of Medicine and Health), Palace Inside, Edirne Palace Ruins, Babussade, Palace Kitchens, Cihannuma Hall, Sand Pavilion and Turkish Bath, Historical Kirkpinar Oil Wrestling Square, Great Synagogue, City Center Liver-Meatball Meal Break, Mimar Sinan " Selimiye Mosque, Selimiye Arastasi (Kavaflar Bazaar), The Old Mosque, Three Şerefeli Mosque, Ali Paşa Bazaar (Grand Bazaar), Karaağaç District, Historical Meriç Bridge, Lausanne Monument, Historical Train Station in Karaağaç. Then move to Istanbul ..



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