



Endless Turkey
by Karavan

PRIVATE ISTANBUL TOUR

Between 15.11.2015 -25.12.2015 / 02.01.2016 – 14.03.2016

Day 1

Istanbul

- Arrive in Istanbul, you will meet with your Karavan Travel assistant holding a name sign outside the luggage claim area at the airport and transfer to your hotel.
- **Overnight at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Istanbul.**



<http://istanbul.grand.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

Day 2

July 18, 2015
Saturday
(B)

Istanbul

- After breakfast, you will meet with your professional guide at the hotel lobby for your private full day sightseeing to all the '**must see**' sites old city in Istanbul.

Your private tour of Istanbul starts with a visit to the **Hippodrome**, which was one of the largest chariot race grounds of the Byzantine Empire. You will take a short walk to the **Blue Mosque**, completed in 1616, it is a triumph of harmony, proportion and elegance. The mosque was a part of a complex also including, tombs, fountains, kitchens, and a bath. Its colorful 260 windows enables the sunlight to reach inside. This makes the interior unusually light. The blue Iznik Tiles covering the walls have given the mosque its popular name, Blue Mosque.

Then, you will visit the magnificent **Topkapi Palace**, the residence of the sultans for almost three centuries. It is located on the promontory jutting out between the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn. This setting provides a magnificent view. The construction of the Topkapi Palace was completed between 1465 and 1478. Being the imperial residence of the sultan, his court and harem, the palace was also the seat of government for the Ottoman Empire. 4,000 people lived in the Palace. In the Treasury section, you will see breathtaking displays, including the 7th largest diamond in the world, the "Spoonmaker's Diamond".

Lunch recommended at Konyali Restaurant, serving traditional Turkish cuisine in the courtyard of the Topkapi Palace.

After your lunch, you will visit **St. Sophia**, the church of the Divine Wisdom. The



Endless Turkey

by Karavan

architectural marvel of all time. It was built during Emperor Justinian reign (AD537) and it remained the greatest church in Christendom until the conquest of Constantinople in 1453 by Sultan Mehmet II who ordered to convert Hagia Sophia into a Mosque. In 1934, Atatürk proclaimed it a museum. The walls of this beautiful piece of architecture are decorated with gorgeous mosaics.

Last, you will visit the **Grand Bazaar**, the largest and oldest covered Bazaar in Turkey with more than 4,000 shops. A variety of handicrafts, carpets, rare jewels and souvenirs all sold in small shops next to each other. The merchants are selling everything from antiques, home wares, books, copper ware, ceramics, gold and inexpensive souvenirs. Venture into the hidden courtyards or hans, lookout for marble fountains and ornate kiosks. Streets are named according to the trades and the most oriental atmosphere in Istanbul is found in the bazaar. **** Unique Moment :** Enjoy a traditional Turkish coffee at the Historical Coffee Roaster located in the Grand Bazaar. Each variety has been prepared with a blend of traditional knowledge, experience and an abiding love of coffee. With more than 50 years' experience, **Sark Kahvesi** has the finest **Turkish coffee** that you can taste in Istanbul. It is believed that this coffee brings good luck to new politicians, and historically new politicians have sampled coffee here before starting their careers. At the end of your full day sightseeing approximately at 17:30pm, you will return to your hotel.



- **Overnight at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Istanbul.**
<http://istanbul.grand.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

Day 3
(B)

Istanbul

- After breakfast, you will meet with your professional guide at the hotel lobby for your half-day of private sightseeing.

First, you will visit the **Church of St Saviour in Chora**. Built in the 11th century, the walls are decorated with beautiful mosaics and frescoes. The mosaics depict the life of Virgin Mary and the infancy, genealogy and ministry of Christ.

Next, you will visit the **Suleymaniye Mosque**. Built by the great Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan on the order of Sultan Suleiman I (Suleiman the Magnificent), the



Endless Turkey

by Karavan

Suleymaniye Mosque dominates the third hill of old Istanbul, and is strikingly graceful and less ornate than many other imperial mosques, thus lending itself to meditation and quiet reflection.

Last, you will visit the **Basilica Cistern**, constructed in 532 AD built by Justinian to hold the water supply for the Great Palace. The Cistern is 70 meters wide and 140 meters long, with a capacity of 80,000m³ of water. Here you will find an atmospheric forest of 336 beautiful columns, don't miss the two columns featuring the head of Medusa on their bases.

At the end of your half day sightseeing approximately at 1:00pm, you will return to your hotel.

Afternoon at your own leisure.



- **Overnight at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Istanbul.**

**Day 4
(B)**

Istanbul

- After breakfast / check-out, you will meet with your Karavan Travel assistant at the hotel lobby and transfer to Istanbul Ataturk Airport for your international departure flight.

B (Breakfast) L (Lunch) D (Dinner)

Applicable Special Package Price between 15.11.2015 -25.12.2015 / 02.01.2016 – 14.03.2016

2 pax	EUR 410.- per person in double
4 pax	EUR 370.- per person in double
6 pax	EUR 350.- per person in double

Single Supplement EUR 195.-



Endless Turkey

by Karavan

INCLUDING

- 3 nights accommodation in a Grand King room at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Istanbul including daily breakfast.
- 1 full and 1 half day of sightseeing in a deluxe air-conditioned vehicle with a professional driver.
- Private Spanish speaking professional tour guide throughout the tour.
- All entry fees to the sites & museums.
- Tips to the hotel and restaurant staff.
- Service charges & local taxes.
- Unique Moments : Turkish coffee tasting at Sark Kahvesi.

EXCLUDING

- International flight ticket
- Drinks and meals which are not listed at the itinerary
- All personal expenses.
- Tips to the tour guide and driver.
- Personal expenses of the guests
Lunches and dinners throughout the program (unless specified on the itinerary)
(will be at the own cost of the guests at recommended restaurants)