

## SPLENDOURS OF TURKEY ( 9 NIGHTS – 10 DAYS )



DAY 1.  
(-)

### Istanbul

- Following our arrival in Istanbul we are met at the airport and transferred to our hotel where we will have our overnight stay.

DAY 2.  
(B)

### Istanbul

- Welcome Gift, **Nazar Boncuk ( Turkish Blue Eyed Bead )** Nazar Boncugu is a glass bead that protects the holder from evil eye. It is pretty common in Turkey. Have a look around and you might discover countless Nazar Boncuks dangling from cars, from rear-view windows, backpacks, on necklaces and bracelets, pinned to the sweaters of babies and small children, and hanging above doors in restaurants, hotels, stores, and apartments.
 
- We set off on a full day of sightseeing in Istanbul. We will start off with a visit to the renowned Sultanahmet Mosque, known popularly as **The Blue Mosque**, an incredibly beautiful mosque known for its blue Iznik (Nicaea) tiles are unique for the fact that it has six minarets. We continue on to the **Hippodrome**, once the vast arena that functioned as the heart of sporting (chariots races and athletics) events and political activities of the old city. From here we go to the nearby **Hagia Sophia**, the Church of Divine Wisdom. Ranking as one of the greatest marvels of world architecture, this awe-inspiring building was constructed as a basilica in the 6<sup>th</sup> century by Byzantine Emperor Justinian. From here short walk to the **Underground Cistern**, the largest of the many underground cisterns built during the Byzantine Empire to supply the city with water. This cistern is especially fascinating because the Byzantine builders recycled many stone structures—capital heads and columns-- that had been used in earlier temples. Now an upside down Medusa stares out at us from her watery home. We continue our tour with a visit to the **Topkapi Palace**. This visit to the imperial palace of the Ottoman Sultans will include tours of the imperial treasury, the Chinese porcelain section, the calligraphy section and many more. We will also visit the jewelry collection segment of the palace. The tour will end with a visit to the **Grand Bazaar**, the vast and legendary covered market that is the biggest souk in the world with nearly 4000 shops of antiques, jewelry and carpets. During the visit of the **Grand Bazaar** we will be experiencing **Turkish coffee** from **Sark Kahvesi**, historical coffee roasters located in the Grand Bazaar. Each variety has been prepared with a blend of traditional knowledge, experience and an abiding “Love of Coffee”
 
- Overnight stay at our hotel in Istanbul

**DAY 3.  
(B)**

**Istanbul**

- This morning we visit the renowned **Dolmabahçe Palace**, was built between the years 1843 and 1856 by the armenian architects the Balyans. The design contains eclectic elements from the Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassic styles blended with traditional Ottoman architecture to create a new synthesis. It is the largest Palace in Turkey, its monoblock building occupies 45.000 m2. Later on we go **Cruise on the Bosphorus** with a regular boat. We'll cruise up Istanbul's winding straits and relax and admire the shoreline of beautiful mosques, lavish palaces, and decadent yalis. You'll see Dolmabahçe Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace, Ottoman summer mansions, the Ortaköy Mosque, the defensive Rumeli Fortress, and the Bosphorus Bridge, one of the world's largest suspension bridges, all while passing fishing boats, yachts, huge cargo ships, and tankers.
- Afternoon free at leisure.
- Overnight stay at our hotel in Istanbul

**DAY 4.  
(B-D)**

**Istanbul / Gallipoli / Canakkale ( 310 km – Approx driving time 3 hours and 45 minutes )**

- After breakfast we begin our drive to **Gallipoli**, a pleasant drive that takes us through the European (Thracian) lands of Turkey. Walk on the beach at **ANZAC Cove**, visit **the Lone Pine Cemetery** and see **the Turkish Memorial**. We also visit the moving **ANZAC Museum** before crossing the Dardanelles by ferry to Canakkale where we will check into our hotel and enjoy our buffet dinner and overnight stay at our hotel.

**DAY 5.  
(B-D)**

**Canakkale / Pergamon / Izmir ( 320 km – Approx driving time 4 hours )**

- After breakfast we visit the ancient **Troy** where we will see its legendary walls and the replica of the wooden Trojan Horse. From here we begin our drive towards the Aegean and Izmir. Along the way we will stop at the hauntingly beautiful **Pergamon**, including visits to the **Acropolis** and **Asklepion**. Late afternoon we continue our drive to Izmir. Once we are in Izmir—the Pearl of the Aegean Sea—we will have a short sightseeing tour of the city. We will dine and spend the night at our hotel.
- Tonight you will enjoy a short **ride of Phaeton/Fayton** (typical horse carriage of Izmir ) tour in Izmir along the famous shore promenade called Kordonboyu.

**DAY 6.  
(B-D)**

**Izmir / Ephesus / Pamukkale ( 265 km – Approx driving time 3 hours and 30 minutes )**

- After breakfast drive to Ephesus, famous for its **Temple of Artemis** - one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Its cult to Artemis and its Hellen civilization with Heraclites the “Skotinos” philosopher of “Panta Rei”. During the years of the Roman Empire, the Greek port of Ephesus became the greatest city in Asia Minor. Upon arrival at **Ephesus** follow your guide to enter this ancient site through the Magnesian Gate and discover innumerable monuments including the Forum, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Thermal Baths of Scolastika and the Great Theatre built in the Hellenistic period, which is still noted for its remarkable acoustics, and is where St Paul



preached. We will also visit **Virgin Mary's House**. We will continue to **SIRINCE**. A paved road of 8 km leads to this attractive village set in the hills above Ephesus, surrounded by an idyllic landscape of vineyards and peach orchards. Sirince retains its traditional architecture almost wholly intact, thanks to landmark rules which have been implemented since the 1980s. Most houses in the village date from the 19th century. After visit to village, stop at the Sirince Artemis **Wine House for the wine tasting**. Late afternoon we continue to **Pamukkale**, "the Cotton Castle" with its snow-white terraces formed by thermal waters cascading down the hillside.

- We will dine and spend the night at our hotel in Pamukkale

DAY 7.  
(B-D)

**Pamukkale / Konya ( 415 km – Approx driving time 5 hours)**

- After enjoying our visit to this site of natural beauty we go to the adjacent ruins of antique **Hierapolis** with its famous Necropolis, Basilica, theatre and plutonium. We then continue to Konya. We will visit the mausoleum, museum and monastery complex dedicated to Rumi, the founder of the mystical order often referred to as the "Whirling Dervishes."
- We will dine and spend the night at our hotel in Konya.

DAY 8.  
(B)

**Konya / Cappadocia ( 220 km – Approx driving time 2 hours and 30 minutes )**

- After breakfast, we set off for Cappadocia, with a visit to the **Sultanhan Caravansarai** on the way.



- Upon arrival in the Cappadocia Region we will start off with a visit to **Kaymakli Underground City**, which used to be known as Melagobia. Kaymakli was one of the biggest settlements in Cappadocia and it's 8 level underground city is the deepest of the region today. We will explore the caves of this interesting city and talk about the way of life here. After lunch our second stop is **Soganli Valley**, one of the most secluded and tranquil valleys in Cappadocia. We begin our hike along one side of the valley, visiting many cave churches and we return along the other side of the valley to the quaint village.
- We will spend our night at our hotel in Cappadocia.

DAY 9.

**Cappadocia**

- After breakfast, our first stop at **Uchisar** where is situated at the highest point in



(B-L)

Cappadocia, The top of the Uchisar Castle, provides a magnificent panorama of the surrounding area with Mount Erciyes in the distance. Many rooms hollowed out into the rock are connected to each other with stairs, tunnels and passages. At the entrances of the rooms, there are millstone doors, just like the ones in the underground settlements, used to control access to these places. Due to the erosion in places of this multi-leveled castle, it is unfortunately not possible to reach all the rooms. Most of the rooms, located on the north side of the castle are in use as pigeon houses (dovecuts) today. Farmers used these cave pigeon houses to collect the droppings of pigeons which is an excellent natural fertilizer for the orchards and vineyards. We will continue with visit of **Goreme** area. The small town of Goreme is situated in the middle of the Valley of Fairy Chimneys, surrounded by the eerie shapes and fantastic rock formations that have made the region famous. It is one of the few remaining villages where fairy chimneys and rock-hewn houses are still inhabited, and several restaurants and cafes are carved into the rock. Its biggest attraction is the Goreme Open-Air museum with over 30 beautifully frescoed Byzantine rock churches. The town makes an excellent base from which to explore the surrounding rock formations, villages, vineyards and attractions. For shoppers, carpets and Kilims are plentiful. **Goreme National Park** which was the official state during the period of the Roman Empire, was named “Cappadocia”, which means “ The Country of White Horses” in Persian. The Goreme Open-Air Museum is the most visited of the monastic communities in Cappadocia and is one of the most famous sites in central Turkey. It is a complex comprising more than 30 rock-hewn churches and chapels containing some superb frescoes, dating from the 9th to the 11th centuries. Inconspicuous from the outside, the interiors are characteristically Byzantine with a central dome and a floor plan in the shape of a cross. We will have **lunch at a local village house** where you see many groups of women are cooking local bread together, these lovely people invite you to join them and to sit together. If you want you may try to cook traditional Turkish bread. Then you are going to be taken to a traditional Turkish house, to meet the members and to interact with the family. If you have already learned a little Turkish this is the right time to use local language. Shopping time for the well-known merits of the area before returning to the hotel.

- We will spend our night at our hotel In Cappadocia

DAY 10.

(B)

**Cappadocia Istanbul / UK**

- After breakfast we will drive to the Kayseri Airport to catch our morning flight to Istanbul. Upon our arrival in Istanbul we will transfer to our connection flight back to UK.

**B** = Breakfast      **L** = Lunch      **D** = Dinner



**Our Services Include:**

- 9 nights hotel accommodation throughout the tour at specified selected hotels
- Sightseeing as per above itinerary
- Selected Unique Moment listed below
- Entrance fees of the specified museums in the itinerary
- Specified meals ( 9 Breakfast, 1 Lunch and 4 dinners )
- Mineral Water during lunches & dinners
- Private Transportation by A/C deluxe vehicle
- Private English Speaking Professional tour guide
- Mineral water during the touring days
- Tips to the hotel and restaurant staff
- Service charges & local taxes

**Our Services do not include:**

- Flight tickets (International & Domestic)
- Drinks and meals which are not listed at the itinerary
- All personal expenses
- Tips to the tour guide and driver.



#### INCLUDING

- 9 nights hotel accommodation throughout the tour at below specified selected hotels
- Sightseeing as per above itinerary
- Selected Unique Moment listed below
- Entrance fees of the specified museums in the itinerary
- Specified meals ( 9 Breakfast, 3 Lunches and 4 dinners )
- Mineral Water during lunches & dinners
- Private Transportation by A/C deluxe vehicle
- Private English Speaking Professional tour guide
- Mineral water during the touring days
- Tips to the hotel and restaurant staff
- Service charges & local taxes

#### EXCLUDING

- Flight tickets (International & Domestic)
- Drinks and meals which are not listed at the itinerary
- All personal expenses
- Tips to the tour guide and driver.

#### SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included in our package)

- **Turkish Blue Eyed Bead**
- **Turkish coffee** from Sark Kahvesi
- **Baklava** from the masters Unchanging taste in **Karakoy Gulluoglu Baklavicisi**
- **Turkish Delight** at **Ali Muhiddin Hacı Bekir's shop**
- A short **ride of Phaeton/Fayton** (typical horse carriage of Izmir )
- Stop at the Sirince Artemis **Wine House for the wine tasting.**
- **Lunch at a local village house** in Cappadocia