



Karavan  Travel™

 **Central Holidays™**
Traveling the World Since 1972

TURKEYS DISCOVERY STAR

Day 1
Friday
(-)

ISTANBUL

- Welcome to Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport, here you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. Balance of the day is at leisure to explore a city that has always been at a crossroads, between Asia and Europe, between history and modernity, between conservatives and free-thinkers.

- **** 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.



- Overnight at hotel in Istanbul

Day 2
Saturday
(B)

ISTANBUL

- Spend the day getting to know Istanbul, the great romantic city straddling the Bosphorus Strait.



This morning, you'll visit a few of the great landmarks of the city's historic center, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. First, explore the sprawling **Topkapi Palace**, the maze of opulent buildings that served as the seat of the Ottoman Empire between the 15th and 19th centuries. The Topkapi was a city-palace with a population of approximately



4,000 people. It housed all the Ottoman sultans from Sultan Mehmet II to Abdulmecit—25 sultans over a span of nearly 600 years. Today, it is the world's oldest and largest surviving palace, one of the world's richest museums, and a masterpiece of Turkish architecture—a complex of shady courtyards overlooking the Golden Horn, where the Sea of Marmara meets the Bosphorus. Highlights include the weapons collection, and galleries exhibiting the imperial collection of crystal, silver, fabled jewels, and Chinese porcelain.

You'll also visit the beautiful **Sultan Ahmet Mosque**. The mosque was built between 1609 and 1616 by the architect Mehmet under the orders of Sultan Ahmet I, who ascended to become the 14th ruler at age 14, and died 14 years later. The mosque is part of a large complex consisting of tombs, medreses (theological schools), fountains, a health center, homes, storehouses, and other buildings, but it is best known for its courtyard, elegant domes, and six minarets soaring above the skyline. As you remove your shoes to enter the mosque, you'll see how it earned the name Blue Mosque: Its interior gleams with a magnificent paneling of blue-and-white Iznik tiles.

After **lunch on your own**, your tour continues at the magnificent **Hagia Sophia**, one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Constructed as a Christian church during the sixth century, this Church of the Holy Wisdom served as the mother church of the Orthodox religion for more than



1,000 years. In 1453, the Ottoman Turks seized control of Istanbul and converted the church into a mosque, which it remained until 1935. Today, it is a museum. Among the wonders of this remarkable structure is its huge dome—the model for Byzantine churches to come. As you enter the Hagia Sophia, note the cannonballs along the outer courtyard, which

remain from the Ottomans' siege of the city. Entering the sanctuary, you will be awed by an immense vaulted ceiling that soars above the four arches on which it rests. Admire the marble walls and the juxtaposition of Islamic calligraphic roundels with golden Christian mosaics that are still being uncovered.

Just outside, you'll also see the remains of the **Roman Hippodrome**, where thundering chariots once competed in races. Wrestling, boxing, and other athletic events were also held here, as were political rallies. Of special note at the Hippodrome is the Obelisk of Theodosius, which dates to around 1500 BC and which was transported to Istanbul (then Constantinople) in AD 390. You'll also see the fourth-century Constantine Column; the Greek Serpentine Column, one of city's



oldest monuments, dating to 479 BC; and the German Fountain, a gift to the Ottoman Sultan in 1898.

Your introduction to Istanbul concludes with a stroll through one of the largest (and with its origins in the 15th century, the oldest) covered markets in the world, Istanbul's **Grand Bazaar** (known as the Covered Bazaar to the Turkish people). As you browse among the 4,000 shops stretched along miles of labyrinthine passageways, you'll find that the street names recall the days when each trade had its own quarter: goldsmiths' street, carpet sellers' street, and the street of the skullcap-makers. Perhaps you'll find a bargain in brilliant hand-painted ceramics, copper and brassware, gleaming gold jewelry, spices, leather goods, traditional costumes, and antiques.

**** Unique Moment :** 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 at hotel in Istanbul

Day 3
Sunday
(B-D)

ISTANBUL / CAPPADOCIA

- Enjoy breakfast, then transfer to the Istanbul airport for a short flight to Kayseri or Nevsehir, bound for Cappadocia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the heart of the Anatolian Plateau.
- Transfer to the hotel and rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 4
Monday
(B-D)

CAPPADOCIA

- Early risers can join an **optional** hot-air balloon ride over Cappadocia's tufa formations, soaring over its amber terrain and fairy-tale chimneys in the quiet, rosy light of dawn.



Then, you might elect to get a more intimate perspective of this remarkable countryside during an exhilarating morning hike.

- After breakfast we visit **Goreme Open Air Museum**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its fairy chimney rock formations. Whittled down by time and erosion, these figures stand as a testament to the power of nature. Occupied as far back as the 4th Century, you can still see dwellings, churches and underground cities that were carved into the surrounding formations.





- After **lunch** on your own, then, travel to the **Underground city of Kaymakli**. During the Hittite era in the second century AD, as successive armies swept across Asia Minor, Kaymakli was built as a uniquely defensible community, approximately eight stories underground. Entering a cave, you'll reach a surprisingly sophisticated city of streets, living spaces, and plazas that still contain remnants of everyday life—from storage jars to wine presses. You can explore some of the hundreds of rooms, wandering the many narrow, sloping passageways between kitchens with enameled food storage areas, water cisterns, stables, living spaces—all well-ventilated by air shafts. At one time, several thousand people lived here, will be followed by a local pottery workshop.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel in Cappadocia



Day 5
Tuesday
(B-D)

CAPPADOCIA / KONYA / PAMUKKALE

- After a visit of the **Sultanhani Caravanserai**, we head to **Konya**, the old capital of the Anatolian Seljuk Empire and home to the mystic **Whirling Dervish** sect. Visit the Mevlana, a museum and national monument. Your day ends in **Pamukkale**, the city famous for its dazzling chalk-white array of fantastically shaped limestone terraces.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 6
Wednesday
(B-D)

PAMUKKALE / KUSADASI

- This morning we visit the ruins of ancient **Hierapolis**. It is here that you will see the fairyland terraces, glistening pools and cascades in scallop-shell basins that have made this area famous worldwide. Continue to Kusadasi.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 7
Thursday
(B-D)

KUSADASI / EPHESUS / KUSADASI

- This morning we drive to **Ephesus**, perhaps the best preserved archeological site on Earth, where one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World - the Temple of Artemis - is located. We end our tour with a visit of the **House where the Virgin Mary** is believed to have lived the final years of her life.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel in Kusadasi.





Day 8
Friday
(B-D)

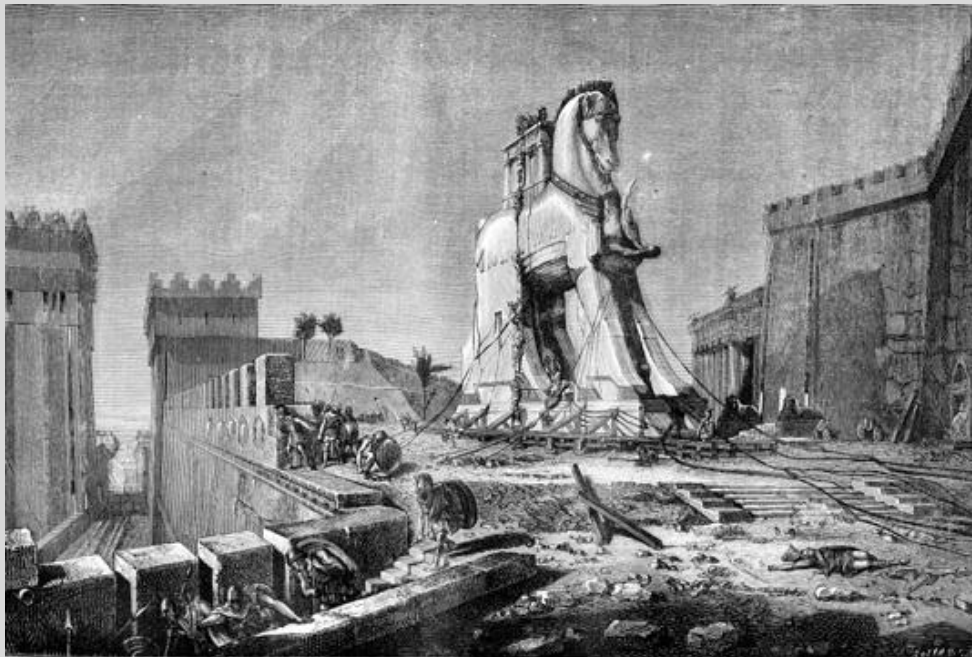
KUSADASI / PERGAMUM / TROY / CANAKKALE

- Today we drive to **Pergamum**, the seat of an ancient kingdom. Visit the **Asklepion**, one of the most famous shrines and therapeutic centers in the ancient world, before driving to Homer's legendary city of **Troy**, where archeological excavation has established nine levels of habitation, including the great city captured in 1200 B.C. by means of the renowned Trojan Horse. A huge replica of this horse stands beside the city's ancient walls. Continue to Canakkale.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Troy

The first city on the site of Troy was Wilusa, founded in the 3rd millennium BC by the Hittites, who were the first indigenous Anatolian people to rise to form a state during the Bronze Age. Situated over the Hisarlık Hill on the northwestern tip of Troad Peninsula, it was clear that the reason for the city's existence in the first place was a total control of Dardanelles, which, along with the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus,

is today known as the Turkish Straits, a key route connecting Mediterranean with the Black Sea, as well as being where European and Asian landmasses are almost just a stone's throw away from each other. The abduction of Helen, the daughter of the king of Sparta, by Paris, a Trojan prince, sparked enmity between the Trojans and Achaeans from across the Aegean Sea. Having been unable to break into the defensive walls of the city, Achaeans decided to set up a trick—they offered a huge wooden horse as a



gift to Trojans, as an amend for the bother they caused with their war galleys on the city's beach.

Trojans accepted the offer sincerely, but this resulted in them losing their city, as inside of the horse was full of Achaean soldiers, ready to combat, and now right in the center of the city. For all its actuality, there

was a Trojan War, which possibly took place in the 12th century BC, and it was around this time Hittite Wilusa was converted to Hellenic Illion, and later Troia. However, for some reason, all later invaders from all directions, with the notable exception of Alexander the Great (who founded the city of Alexandria Troas on the coast south of Troy), favoured Bosphorus to northeast instead of Dardanelles



for their intercontinental crossings. The Roman emperor Constantine I (r. 306-337) agreed as well, founding a new capital for his empire, Constantinople (Istanbul today), on the banks of Bosphorus. As Constantinople flourished, its geographical rival Troy declined, eventually disappearing under layers of dirt. Since the days of Byzantine Empire, Troy was thought to be nothing but Homer's pure imagination, but in 1868, Heinrich Schliemann, a German businessman and a self-proclaimed archaeologist, proved otherwise, after taking the hint that Troy might be a real place buried under the Hisarlık Hill from Frank Calvert, a British archaeologist who visited the site three years earlier. As Schliemann's excavations were totally amateurish, it damaged the integrity of much of the remains, but Schliemann obtained what he yearned for anyway—his Greek spouse Sophia Schliemann is immortalized in a photo showing her wearing the treasures found at the Hisarlık Hill (part of the treasure was later taken by the Red Army from Berlin to Moscow at the end of World War II). Although almost a century and a half passed since the days of Schliemann, Troy still hasn't been unearthed completely yet, and the excavation works still continue to this day. Once a harbour city on the edge of a deep bay of Dardanelles, the site now lies 5 km inland from the coast due to the alluvial material carried by the River Scamander (modern Karamenderes), which filled the bay, turning it into the fertile, flat farmland stretching out to the sea that it is.

Day 9
Saturday
(B)

CANAKKALE / ISTANBUL

- After crossing the Dardanelles, we visit the peninsula of **Gelibolu**, better known in the west as Gallipoli. Here are the battlefields where for nine disastrous months during the Great War, Anzac troops fought unsuccessfully to gain control of the strategic Dardanelle Straits. Visit **Anzac Cove** and **Lone Pine Cemetery**. Continue to Istanbul.
- Overnight at hotel in Istanbul.

Gallipoli Peninsula

The World War I for control of the Dardanelles (Hellespoint) strait was fought mainly on Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula, with appalling casualties. Around 100,000 were killed and 400,000 wounded during the nine-month campaign (1915-1916).



The battlefields cover an extensive area from Cape Helles at the southern tip of the peninsula north for over 35 km (22 miles) to the Anafartalar hills.



Invading armies and navies have coveted the strategic Dardanelles strait since the days of the Trojans because it controls sea traffic between the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara, and the Aegean/



Mediterranean. Only 1.2 km wide at its narrowest point (Kilitbahir), and over 100 meters deep, the Dardanelles is also the key to Istanbul: warships that could get through the Dardanelles could easily train their guns on the sultan's palace in Istanbul and bring the Ottoman Empire to its knees. The

British navy wanted very much to get its battleships through the Dardanelles and attack Constantinople to knock the Ottoman Empire, an ally of the Central Powers, out of World War I. Ottoman forces, some of whom were commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Kemal (later Atatürk) knew that if the Allied ships got through, it might mean the conquest of their country. Today, the Gallipoli battlefields are silent, preserved as a national park strewn with marble and bronze monuments, among the most emotionally touching places to visit in Turkey.

Day 10
Sunday
(B)

ISTANBUL to USA (Or Extend Your Stay)

- Morning transfer to airport for your return flight home

B = Breakfast

D = Dinner

APPLICABLE SPECIAL PACKAGE PRICES between 01.12.2016 – 27.2206 / 02.01.2017 – 28.02.2017		
	PACKAGE PRICE	VEHICLE
15 - 19	\$ 495.- per person	46 seater A/C deluxe motor coach
20 - 24	\$ 435.- per person	46 seater A/C deluxe motor coach
25 - 29	\$ 390.- per person	46 seater A/C deluxe motor coach
30 - 34	\$ 360.- per person	46 seater A/C deluxe motor coach
35 - 39	\$ 340.- per person	46 seater A/C deluxe motor coach

****Single Supplement: \$185.-**



Our Services Includes:

- Deluxe class hotel accommodation for 9 nights
- 15 included meals consisting of:
 - 9 buffet breakfasts 6 dinners at hotels
- Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Assistance of a professional Tour Director for the entire length of the tour
- Sightseeing, including local guide and all entrance fees as follows:
 - Istanbul city tour, including entrance fees at Topkapi Palace and Hagia Sophia Museum
 - Visit of Cappadocia
 - Visit of the Sultanhani Caravanserai
 - Visit of Konya's Mevlana Museum
 - Tour of Hierapolis and hot springs in Pamukkale
 - Visit of Ephesus archaeological site
 - Visit of House of the Virgin Mary
- Visit of ancient Pergamum, including entrance fees for the Acropolis and Asklepion
- Visit of Troy archaeological site
- Visit of World War I memorials at Gallipoli
- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- Baggage handling
- Document holder and luggage tags
- Hotel taxes and service charges

Our Services do not includes:

- Airfare, Airport taxes & Fuel Surcharges
- Visa upon arrival (and upon re-entry) if required
- Tips and Personal items
- Travel Insurance
- Optional Tours
- Drinks and meals which are not listed at the itinerary

SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included in our package)

Karavan's reputation is based upon supplying competitive prices with innovative programs, which produce results For our partners and this is something we have built up over the years. Our experience has shown us that the right DMC needs to be able to develop and deliver products and services which stand out from the crowd and are Competitive at the same time. We have specially tailored and introduced "Unique Moments" in our tours such as Private Visits to museums, local "street" food tasting along the itinerary including Turkish coffee and baklavas in Legendary locations. Wine tasting in Diyarbakir, visit to the only Turkish Gourmet Museum in Turkey, Champagne in



Mount Ararat' Private dinners and lunch organizations in Ephesus. Typical home cooking in Cappadocia, school visit, weddings in villages. Lecture on site by the professors leading the excavations. Please find below the “**Unique Moments**” services included in the itinerary.

- **Turkish Blue Eyed Bead**
- **Turkish coffee** from **Sark Kahvesi**
- **Turkish Delight** at **Ali Muhiddin Haci Bekir's shop**
- **Visit a local village house in Cappadocia** and get to know the family members
- **Try a Turkish Tea with the locals**

SUGGESTED HOTELS

ISTANBUL

Wyndham Istanbul Old City Hotel, 5 Star
www.wyndhamoldcity.com
or similar,

CAPPADOCIA

Ramada Cappadocia Hotel, 5 Star
www.wyndhamhotels.com/ramada/nevsehir-turkey/ramada-cappadocia-nevsehir/overview
or similar,

PAMUKKALE

Spa Hotel Colossae Thermal, 5 Star
www.colossaehotel.com
or similar,

KUSADASI

Le Bleu Resort Hotel, 5 Star
www.lebleuhotel.com
or similar,

CANAKKALE

Kolin Hotel, 5 Star
www.kolinhotel.com
or similar,



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