

# Endless Turkey™

by Karavan





# Endless Turkey



*Endless Turkey:* Where east meets west; where ancient cultures meet cutting edge; where glittering domes meet bustling bazaars; where verdant mountains meet sparkling seas. That's where you'll discover "Endless Turkey" -an inspiring collection of some of the most exclusive holiday options across the Anatolian peninsula. With over 40 years unparalleled experience creating bespoke travel itineraries, Turkish specialists, Karavan, have developed "Endless Turkey" to satisfy the most discerning and cultured travelers. Luxurious, boutique accommodation, exquisite Riviera cruises, imaginative tours and perfect relaxation packages combined with exceptionally high standards of service, offering an inspiring breadth of choice in a truly diverse, picturesque and historically mesmerizing destination...

As we have the in-depth local knowledge to design experiences around your special interests, we can put you in touch with archaeologists, academics, artisans, museum directors, chefs, curators and many more gifted professionals who are passionate about Turkey's rich history and culture. Please enjoy some samples of our carefully selected packages for you: Art and Culture, City, Gastronomy and Vanity. Enjoy the journey



## Unique Moments

In addition, we have specially tailored and introduced "Unique Moments" included in some of our tours such as private visits of Saint Sophia, Islamic Art Museum, Bodrum Castle - Local "street" food tasting along the itinerary including Turkish coffee and baklavas in legendary locations. Wine tastings and private dinners and lunches in Ephesus. Typical home cooking in Cappadocia, school visits and weddings in villages as well as lectures on site by the professors leading the excavations.





# Istanbul Art & Culture



## ISTANBUL FOR CONNOISSEURS

- Day 1** Glorious VIP arrival without delay straight through customs on your way to your hotel
- Day 2** After breakfast we will commence with the visit of; **Topkapi Palace**, The primary residence of the Ottoman Sultans since (1465-1856), **Hippodrome**, the arena that functioned as the heart of sporting, events & political activities. **Blue Mosque**, known for its blue Iznik (Nicaean) tiles and unique regarding its 6 minarets. Lunch will be at **Daruzziyafe Restaurant**, Turkish Cuisine settled in the Suleymaniye Complex, which is one of the imposing edifices of the Ottoman Architecture. **Grand Bazaar**, the legendary covered market & biggest souk in the world with nearly 4000 shops of antiques, jewelry and carpets.
- Day 3** Today you will visit **Istanbul Modern Museum**, The Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Turkey's first private museum to organize modern and Contemporary art exhibitions. **Pera Museum**, Inaugurated on 8 June 2005, is a private museum founded by the Suna and Inan Kiraç Foundation. **Tea time at Pera Palace Hotel**, relax and soak up the grandeur of the surroundings while you savour the Turkish tea. **Continue to Cukurcuma**, the best and most atmospheric antique stores in Istanbul and invites you to a journey out of time with a taste of surprise. The day will finish with the visit of **Beyoglu**, is the historical, cultural and social city center of Istanbul. For laymen, the name of Beyoğlu is used for Istiklal Street which is a significant culture, recreation and business centers of the city which connects Galatasaray to the Taksim Square and its surroundings.
- Day 4** Departure from hotel to the airport.

## SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included)

**Whirling Dervishes at Daruzziyafe Restaurant:** Whirling Dervishes, The Mevlevi Ritual symbolizes the mystical meaning of Divine Love and the passion for the union with the Divine Truth and has been performed for hundreds of years in the Mevlevi Lodges.

**Turkish Coffee at Sark Kahvesi:** Historical Coffee Roasters located in Grand Bazaar.

**Exclusive Visit of Hagia Sophia Museum:** You have the opportunity to avoid the crowds, escape the ordinary and enjoy after-hours tours and access to spectacular Hagia Sophia Museum.

**Tea Time at Pera Palace Hotel:** One of the most important Historical landmark of Istanbul. Experience and relive the grandeur of the past while you enjoy your Turkish Tea.

## SUGGESTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (excluded)

**Air helicopter tour:** A breathtaking way to see and experience the precious relics of three world dominating Empires (Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman) of which Istanbul has been the capital. Flying over the Bosphorus, with a professional pilot at the helm, you'll enjoy a unique perspective on east meets west, past meets present.

### The historical and luxurious art of bathing

Mimar Sinan, the chief Ottoman architect, designed & built the Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam in Istanbul at the request of Hurrem Sultan (Roxelana) in the 16th century (1556-1557 AD). Taking a Turkish Hamam includes relaxing in a hot dry air room for perspiring (the iliklik). The guests may then move on to a hotter room (the hararet) before cooling down with cold water. Finally, after a relaxing massage, guests retreat to the cooling-room for relaxation & refreshments.





# Magical Cappadocia & The Aegean Coast

## MAGICAL CAPPADOCIA

**Day 1** After a short domestic flight (45-min) from Istanbul, your guide will meet you upon arrival and start with the visit of **Kaymakli Underground City**. Inhabitants of Kaymakli village (Enegup in Greek) have built their houses around tunnels of the underground city. These people still use the tunnels as cellars, storage areas and stables, accessed through their courtyards.

**Day 2** The day will start with a hot air **Balloon tour**, a privileged platform to observe the splendor of Cappadocia. Imagine as you effortlessly drift over unique rock formations and rich fertile valleys, all set against the dramatic volcanic landscape that formed the region over two million years ago. **Cave House Visit:** Here you will visit a historic cave house and experience how the inhabitants use to live. **Wine Tasting:** You will taste the wines of "Turasan" the oldest wine producer in Cappadocia established in 1943. Their wines have been awarded with gold medals in Turkey and 3 of their wines have received silver medals in the World Competition of Wine, for the first time in the history of wine making in Turkey. **Goreme Open Air Museum**, most visited of the monastic communities in Cappadocia and is one of the most famous sites in central Turkey.

**Day 3** Departure from hotel to the airport.

### SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included)

**Cappadocia home cooking:** Renovated traditional stone house where we accommodate our guests for traditional home cooking. The house is decorated in a traditional style (arched ceilings, Turkish textiles & Cappadocia rugs) so that guests can experience real village life of Cappadocia. We want you to feel and enjoy the Turkish hospitality and tradition. Savor this authentic Turkish food after we have prepared it together! The ingredients used are natural, organic products, including fresh eggs from our chickens, honey from our own beehives and a variety of fruits, vegetables and spices that are grown in our garden.

**Cave house visit:** Here you will visit a historic cave house and experience how the inhabitants use to live.

### SUGGESTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (excluded)

**Hiking tour:** The tour cover these incredible valleys from spectacular top to wondrous bottom. Biking, pedaling on this almost Martian landscape, visiting the highlights like **Goreme Open Air Museum, Zelve, Ihlara Valley, Derinkuyu** underground city...

**Lunch at valley:** Exclusive catered lunch in the ancient settings of the Valley of Cappadocia, a unique experience not to be missed.

## THE AEGEAN COAST AND ITS GEMS

**Day 1** After a short domestic flight (45 mins) from Istanbul you will arrive to Izmir and continue to Pergamon.

**Pergamon:** Here we will visit the Acropolis, the steepest theatre of the ancient world, the Temple of Trojan and the Library. After lunch we will continue on with visits to the ancient healing center of Askleion and the Red Basilica, which is one of the Seven Churches of the Revelation.

**Day 2** Visit the ruins of **Ephesus**, which is of incomparable beauty. You walk along the ancient streets among the ruins of temples. Fountains, the magnificent Library of Celsus, thermal baths, the Prytaneum. Next visit will be to the **Ephesus Museum** and the St. John Basilica, as the inhabitants of Ephesus moved to Ayasuluk after the 7th century AD, the **Basilica of St. John** substituted the church in Ephesus, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Last stop will be to **Sirince Village**, this old Greek village acquired world-wide fame when tourists flocked to the village in December 2012 to witness the Mayan Apocalypse; you will truly enjoy the impressive wine of Sirince.

**Day 3** Departure from hotel to the airport.

### SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included)

**Private visit and dinner Ephesus ancient city:** Imagine a fully catered dinner against the backdrop of Ephesus, the best-preserved classical city of the Eastern Mediterranean, by night.

### SUGGESTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (excluded)

**Visit of most famous olive oil museum (olea trium):** This unique museum reflects the connection of olive and olive oil culture of Anatolia and Mediterranean.





## FOREVER ISTANBUL

- Day 1** Glorious VIP arrival without delay straight through customs on your way to your hotel. Dinner and Clubbing at Nomads Club
- Day 2** **Air Helicopter Tour of Istanbul;** A breathtaking way to see the precious relics of three world dominating Empires (Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman) of which Istanbul has been the capital. Flying over the Bosphorus, with a professional pilot at the helm, you'll enjoy a unique perspective on east meets west, past meets present. Afterwards, a retail therapy at **Nisantasi district**, known for its many chique boutiques, terraces and restaurants or for the seasoned shoppers: The Famous **Grand Bazaar**, the legendary covered market that is the biggest souk in the world with nearly 4000 shops of antiques, jewelry and carpets. Finally, a cocktail and dinner at **Sunset Restaurant** and continue the night at the **Reina Club**.
- Day 3** **Brunch at Lucca**, known for its signature and award-winning cocktails such as Satsuma Vodka, it's mixology team; creative all day cuisine; tasty small plates by its Spanish Executive Chef Willy Moya. Lively bar atmosphere and upbeat crowd. Being 'the' local meeting spot; in the upscale residential neighborhood of Bebek; very busy at weekend nights where well known international DJ's spin the music. In the afternoon, you will enjoy the famous Turkish bath at the Hurrem Sultan Hamam.
- Day 4** Departure from hotel to the airport.

### SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included)

**Nomads Club:** Located in Ortaköy, the nightlife district of Istanbul. The club has a Middle Eastern theme and its distinctive décor makes every corner of Nomads unique and mystical.

**Reina Night Club:** Best club of Istanbul and voted best club in the world. Opened in 2002, it's less of a club and more of a vast entertainment emporium that includes several bars, restaurants and dance floors that can accommodate more than 2, 500 people. It is frequented by Turkish celebrities, models, millionaires and VIPs and is also very popular with the international jet set.

**Sunset Grill & Bar:** Open since 1994, Sunset Grill & Bar is one of the leading fine dining restaurants in Istanbul today. Sitting on a hilltop below Ulus Park in the upscale neighborhood of Ulus, the restaurant has spectacular views of the Bosphorus Strait, Bosphorus Bridge and the Asian shoreline.

**Brunch at Lucca:** As you walk or drive through the swish district of Bebek's main street, you will immediately notice Lucca as its sexy, elite crowd is always spilling out onto the street, blocking the street with their Versace-enclosed bodies or traffic-stopping Porches. Restaurant by day and lively lounge by night, Lucca is calmer and less crowded during the day, which makes it an ideal place for brunch, coffee, or drinks. Later at night, the venue gets packed with its frequenters. Well-known Turkish and international DJs spin for the upbeat crowd focusing on Jazz, Funk and House.

### Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam

#### The historical and luxurious art of Bathing

Mimar Sinan, the chief Ottoman architect, designed & built the Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam in Istanbul at the request of Hurrem Sultan (Roxelana) in the 16th century (1556-1557 AD). Taking a Turkish Hamam includes relaxing in a hot dry air room for perspiring (the iliklik). The guests may then move on to a hotter room (the hararet) before cooling down with cold water. Finally, after a relaxing massage, guests retreat to the cooling-room for relaxation & refreshments.

### SUGGESTED UNIQUE MOMENTS

**Chill Out, Fishing on The Bosphorus:** Relax and reset your mind and brain after a great party weekend.

**Yacht Cruise Dinner on The Bosphorus:** A private boat dinner cruise along Istanbul's winding straits for a chance to relax and admire the shoreline of beautiful mosques, lavish palaces and world famous Yalis



## SILK ROAD COOKING EXPERIENCE, MOST INFLUENTIAL CUISINE IN THE WORLD

**Day 1** Glorious VIP arrival without delay straight through customs on your way to your hotel

**Day 2** After breakfast we will commence with the visit of; **Karakoy Local Bakery** visit, here a variety of different specialties are served, Backhaus is first and foremost the gourmet Bakery. **Topkapi Palace**, The primary residence of the Ottoman Sultans for approximately 400 years (1465-1856) of their 624-year reign. **Hippodrome**, once the vast arena that functioned as the heart of sporting (chariots races, athletics) & events. **Blue Mosque**, an incredibly beautiful mosque. Unique for its blue Iznik (Nicaean) tiles and its six minarets. **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.

**Day 3** Ferry ride from Karakoy to the Asian side of Istanbul Kadikoy to visit the local market of Kadikoy. **Kadikoy Local Market**; the most famous local market in Istanbul, where we will visit the stalls and enjoy the local shopping experience. In the afternoon, **Turkish cooking class at Matbah Restaurant**; situated in a beautifully landscaped garden that acts as a peaceful oasis in the middle of Istanbul, surrounded by all the major historical and cultural sights including the magnificent Topkapı Palace and Hagia Sophia Museum, Matbah is unique & shows the soul of the Ottoman and Turkish culture. You will learn some basic cooking techniques depending on your previous experience, as well as a few neat little tricks. You will learn how to prepare a memorable Turkish meal to reproduce at home for family and friends.

**Day 4** Departure from hotel to the airport.

### SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included)

**Karakoy Bakery:** Here you will visit this famous Turkish bakery, where will conduct and experience a tasting of Turkish pastries.

**Kadikoy Local Market:** Most famous local market in Istanbul, here we will visit the stalls and enjoy the local shopping experience.

**Cooking Class at Matbah Restaurant:** Here, you will learn some basic cooking techniques depending on your previous experience, as well as a few neat little tricks. Most of all, you will learn how to prepare a fantastic memorable Turkish meal to reproduce back at home for family and friends.

### SUGGESTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (excluded)

**Private transfer by yacht or helicopter.** Helicopter or yacht transfer a breathtaking way to see and experience the precious relics of three world dominating Empires (Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman) of which Istanbul has been the capital.

## BREAK IN BODRUM & ROMANTIC GET AWAY

**Day 1** After a short domestic flight from Istanbul (45 mins) VIP arrival without delay straight on your way to your hotel

**Day 2** **The Bodrum-Town walking tour** will start after breakfast with a visit of; **Bodrum Castle**, one of the world's best preserved monuments from medieval times & a solid testament worth defending. The Crusader castle was built by the Knights of St. John between 1402 and 1409. **Mausoleum Open Air Museum**, its name came from the fact that the tomb of Mausolos (King of Caria) is located here. His wife & his sister had the most famous architects of the day to design the structure There is a small museum at the site of this tomb, which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The word "maussolleion" is taken from King Mausolos' name. Many of the stones of this Mausoleum were used in the construction of 'Bodrum Castle'. The beautiful reliefs on the grave were taken to the British Museum during the excavations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. You will can enjoy the rest of the day at the SPA of their hotel.

**Day 3** **Blue Voyage in Bodrum:** visiting several of the most beautiful bays where you can swim and snorkel in crystal-clear water or simply relax in the mild breeze, enjoy the stunning views and perfect your suntan to the sound of the gently lapping waves. **Black Island** (near Bodrum) is where you can bath in the grotto where warm mineral waters are flowing out of the rocks, which are believed to beautify the complexion. **Aquarium Bay**, resembles a real life aquarium where the turquoise water is so clear that you can see fishes swimming around in the wonderful clean Mediterranean Sea water. Put on a pair of goggles and see the different species of fish in their natural environment.

**Day 4** Departure from hotel to the airport.

### SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included)

**Bodrum town walking tours;** Stroll along Bodrum's waterfront overlooked by the magnificent Crusader Castle of St Peter. Follow old traditional routes through pastoral scenery and untouched villages.

**Blue voyage yacht tour:** The Blue Cruise is the ultimate vacation as you sail along the beautiful coast of Turkey while getting way from routines and exploring the many coves. Yachts have cabins with private bathrooms and showers and all have additional water sports equipment.

### SUGGESTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (excluded)

**Private Dinner at Bodrum Castle:** An exclusive dining option at the English Tower. Bodrum Castle occupies the tip of the wedge-like peninsula at the center of Bodrum. It is a splendid incarnation of medieval western military architecture, built at a time when the European Middle Ages were over and castles of this type were fast becoming objects of nostalgia. It has a massive conglomeration of courtyards, turrets, galleries and sunken gardens. Experience this unique dinner in the most secluded and ancient setting in Turkey.





# Romantic Escapes

## LUXURY GET AWAY

**Day 1** After a short domestic flight from Istanbul (45 mins) arrive to Dalaman Airport and continue to Gocek Marina to embark your yacht and start your cruise in the Gocek Gulf.

**Gocek Gulf (Yassica Islands - Tersane Island - Bedri Rahmi Bay):** You will cruise to the world-famous Gocek Gulf through uniquely beautiful islands and finally anchor at Yassica Islands. Lunch will be served in this beautiful chain of little islands. You will anchor at Tersane Island for tea-time and a swimming break. This naturally protected harbor was used as a shipyard in the Byzantine and Ottoman times. For dinner and overnight stay you will cruise and anchor in Bedri Rahmi Bay, which is named after a famous Turkish artist who made one of the first 'Blue Cruises' in Turkey.

**Day 2 Gocek Gulf (Manastir - Aga Limani):** After a memorable breakfast you will cruise to & have lunch and a swimming break at Manastir (Monastery) Bay. Manastir is also known as Cleopatra Bay or Sunken Bath Bay due to the beautiful underwater ruins of an old bath. Afterwards, you will cruise to Aga Limani for dinner and anchor here for overnight stay.

**Day 3 Kumlubuku - Cennet Island - Marmaris:** Today after an early morning gourmet feast you will cruise to Kumlubuk Bay. You will anchor at Cennet Island for our last swimming break and lunch. By 4:00 p. m you will enter Marmaris Harbour and stay there overnight where you can enjoy the lively night life of this small resort town.

**Day 4** Departure from the gullet to the airport.

### SELECTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (included)

**Romantic candle light dinner in Gocek:** Enjoy a delicious **Candle light Dinner** in Gocek

**Diving:** Turkey is a paradise that meets the expectations of divers of all levels.

### SUGGESTED UNIQUE MOMENTS (excluded)

**Excursion to Dalyan Caunos:** One of the most famous natural sites in Turkey and one of the last breeding grounds for the Loggerhead Turtles. You will sail by boat down the river to the mud baths and sulphur spring. On the way to a beautiful unspoiled sandy beach, you will pass through the fascinating tombs of Caunos.

## LEGENDS OF TURKEY AND GREECE

**Day 1 Istanbul:** Glorious VIP arrival without delay straight through customs on your way to your hotel. After check in, we continue to **Topaz Restaurant**, offering their guests the extraordinary flavours of Mediterranean and Ottoman cuisine.

**Day 2 Istanbul:** After breakfast, we set off on a full day of sightseeing in Istanbul. A visit to the renewed **Sultan Ahmet Mosque**, known as The Blue Mosque, its unique due to its blue Iznik (Nicaean) tiles and its 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. 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 6th century by Byzantine Emperor Justinian. Lunch will be at **Karakol Restaurant**, located inside of the Topkapi Palace courtyard. This restaurant serves selected dishes from the Ottoman cuisine. After lunch, you will visit the **Topkapi Palace**, which was the imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans for more than 400 years, which houses the priceless collections of porcelains, jewelry, calligraphy and many masterpieces of art. The tour will end with the visit to the Grand Bazaar, the legendary covered market that is the biggest souk in the world with nearly 4000 shops of antiques, jewelry and carpets. While discovering we will have a traditional coffee at **Sark Kahvesi**. Each variety has been prepared with a blend of traditional knowledge, experience and an abiding "Love for Coffee". Once back at the Hotel, we depart for the Nomads Restaurant, located in the nightlife district of Ortaköy, near the Bosphorus,

**Day 3 Istanbul:** We will commence after breakfast with the visit to the **Underground Cistern**, the largest of the many built during the Byzantine Empire to supply the city with water. Especially fascinating because the Byzantine builders recycled many stone structures (capital heads and columns used in earlier temples). Lunch will be at **Balikci Sabahattin**, a famous seafood restaurant in a narrow, multistoried Ottoman style house, charmingly decorated with ceramic plates, old copperware, traditional carpets and crisp embroidered curtains in Cankurtaran/Sultanahmet. In the afternoon you will experience a Turkish bath at The Ayasofya Hurrem Sultan Hamam, designed & built by Mimar Sinan, the chief Ottoman architect. On the way back you can treat yourself with Baklava from the masters - unchanging taste in **Karakoy Gulluoglu Baklavicisi** (since 1949). Baklava is actually not a dessert, rather an event on itself in Istanbul. Dinner will be at **Reina Club**.



**Day 4 Istanbul / Pergamon / Izmir:** After breakfast we will drive to the Ataturk Airport to catch our morning flight to Izmir. Upon our arrival in Izmir we will continue to **Pergamon** Tour. We will visit the Acropolis, the steepest theatre of the ancient world, the Temple of Trojan and the Library. After lunch at Asklepion restaurant we continue on with visits to the ancient healing center of Asklepion and the **Red Basilica**, which is one of the Seven Churches of the Revelation. **Dinner** will be at a **Levantine Villa's Garden**, of the most notorious old **English Levantine family 'the Whittalls'**. The owner Edward Whittall was a reputed botanist who developed the grounds of his family villa into a botanical treasure. We will overnight in Izmir.

**Day 5 Ephesus / Bodrum:** The day will start with the visit of the ruins of the ancient city of **Ephesus**. Our first stop will be at the Basilica of **St. John**, who came here with the Virgin Mary and wrote his Gospel. Once in the ancient city itself we will explore this Roman city and visit the Library of Celcius, Temple of Hadrian, the Theatre and Odeon. We will leave the ruins to drive the short distance to the House of the Virgin Mary, a site that includes a house and garden and the spot where she is believed to have spent her last years. We continue to **Sirince Village** for our lunch and wine tasting. In the afternoon, there will be leisure time at an old Greek Village. After that, we continue to Bodrum for the overnight. Dinner will be at **Kocadon Restaurant**.

**Day 6 Bodrum / Tilos (Cruise):** After embarkation, our luxury gullet will sail to **Tilos Island**. Tilos is a small Greek Island located in the Aegean Sea. It is part of the Dodecanese group of islands and lies midway between Kos and Rhodes. After the Chief's special lunch on board, we will enjoy our swimming break. We will spend the night in Tilos.

**Day 7 Tilos / Rhodes (Cruise):** We will sail to **Rhodes Island** early in the morning after breakfast. It is the largest of the Dodecanese Islands in terms of both land area and population, also the island group's historical capital. Rhodes was famous worldwide for the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The medieval Old Town of the City of Rhodes has been declared a World Heritage Site. You may join our Old City walking tour in a day. Dinner will be at **Alexis 4 Seasons Restaurant** with 52 years of experience and successful presence. Overnight will be in Rhodes.

**Day 8 Rhodes / Gocek (Cruise):** Early morning sail to **Gocek** with a swimming break in the beautiful Gocek riviera. After disembarkation, we continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Day 9 Gocek / Pamukkale** After breakfast we continue to **Pamukkale** "the Cotton Castle" with its snow-white terraces formed by thermal waters cascading down the hillside. After enjoying our visit to this site of natural beauty we go the adjacent ruins of antique **Hierapolis** with its famous Necropolis, Basilica, Theatre and Plutonium. Afterwards we will have the time to swim in the Thermal Pool. We will dine and spend the night in Pamukkale.

**Day 10 Pamukkale / Konya:** After breakfast we drive to **Konya**, a city in the Central Anatolia Region of Turkey. It is the 7<sup>th</sup> most populous city in Turkey. Visit to the mausoleum, museum and monastery complex dedicated to **Mevlana Celalettin Rumi**, the founder of the mystical order often referred to as the "Whirling Dervishes." Lunch will be at Horozluhan restaurant. After lunch we will visit **Karatay Museum**. Before dinner we will join to the private "Whirling Dervishes" ceremony, The Mevlevi order was founded after the theologian, poet and philosopher **Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi** (1207-1273), who in his teachings celebrated the day of death as the ultimate union with God. The Mevlevi Ritual symbolizes the mystical meaning of Divine Love and the passion for the union with the Divine Truth. The Ritual has been performed for hundreds of years in the Mevlevi Lodges. We will dine and spend the night in Konya.

**Day 11 Konya / Cappadocia:** After an early breakfast we set off for **Cappadocia**. On the way, we will visit the 13<sup>th</sup> century Sultanhan Caravanserai, a building that ranks as one of the Seljuk masterpiece. Once we arrive in Cappadocia we will lunch in Elai Restaurant. Then continue to **Kaymakli Underground City**, the place early Christians hid from persecutors and then proceed to the **Red Valley** for wine tasting. Afterwards, we continue to our hotel in Cappadocia for dinner and overnight.

**Day 12 Cappadocia:** The day will start in the morning with a **Balloon tour**, which provides you with a privileged platform to observe the splendor that is Cappadocia. Imagine as you effortlessly drift over unique rock formations and rich fertile valleys, all set against the dramatic volcanic landscape that formed the region over two million years ago. After lunch, we proceed to the pottery town of **Avanos** where Kizilirmak (Hallys), the longest river of Turkey, meanders leaving the red clay on its banks that has been the raw material of pottery for centuries. After that we go to the **Open Air Museum in Goreme** to visit the early Christian churches decorated with unique frescoes depicting various scenes from the Bible. We stop by Pigeon Valley near **Uchisar** & overnight in Cappadocia.

**Day 13 Cappadocia/Istanbul:** After breakfast we leave to Kayseri Airport for our flight to Istanbul. When we arrive in Istanbul, we'll have an **Exclusive Cruise** with a private motor yacht on the waterway separating the continents of Asia and Europe, with the opportunity to take the pictures of marble places like the ancient wooden villas of the Ottoman period. Lunch will be at **Del-mare Restaurant**, situated right next to the sea in Cengelkoy. Dinner will be at the **Suda Kebap** located in the Su adasi (Su Island) one of the most beautiful locations in Istanbul between two continents.

**Day 14 Departure** Transfer to the airport for our return flights.

Karavan Travel™ | Endless Turkey™ by Karavan | Karavanmar™ Cruise Services | Kmice™ by Karavan



# Karavan

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