



## TEMPERUS TRAVEL

### Turkish Insight

Day 1  
(-)

#### ISTANBUL

Arrive into cosmopolitan Istanbul, the city straddling two continents. You are met on arrival and transferred to your hotel located in Sultanahmet just steps from the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. Rest of the day to settle in.



**\*\* 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 Four Seasons Sultanahmet Hotel in Istanbul.**

Day 2  
(B-L)

#### 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.

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.

Continue to **Basilica Cistern**, the great Byzantine cistern, located across from Hagia Sophia, was used to supply the necessary water to the city during the barbarian attacks and when the city was under siege. It consists 336 columns with Doric and Corinthian capitals were brought from various locations in Asia Minor for the construction of the cistern. A monumental aqueduct built by Emperor Valens and still a major attraction of the city, provided water to the cistern, followed by a brief stop at the lovely garden of the sacred spring, Ayazma Blachenae, dating back to 451AD.

Set menu lunch at **Matbah Restaurant**, [www.matbahrestaurant.com](http://www.matbahrestaurant.com) Matbah is situated in a beautifully landscaped garden that acts as a peaceful oasis in the middle of Istanbul. Sitting in the heart of the old city and surrounded by all the major historical and cultural sights including the



magnificent Topkapı Palace and Hagia Sophia Museum, Matbah takes you deep into the soul of Ottoman and Turkish culture through an elegant and unique atmosphere. Matbah recreates the classic “Ottoman Palace” fine dining experience in an impressive, relaxing, and welcoming way, embracing a passion for tradition and excellence. Open for breakfast, brunch, lunch, pre-dinner, and dinner, Matbah’s restaurant and bar offer a great selection of the Ottoman palace’s cuisine designed for the palates of exclusive gourmets

**Overnight at Four Seasons Sultanahmet Hotel in Istanbul.**



## Day 3 (B)

### **ISTANBUL**

Savour the sights and smells of the Spice Market where you are encouraged to taste the local delicacies. Visit to the 17<sup>th</sup> century **Egyptian Bazaar**, a charming marketplace that ranks as the second largest covered bazaar in Istanbul. This is the Egyptian Spice Bazaar, where the pungent and savory aroma of exotic oils, herbs and spices have perfumed the arched stone corridors for nearly 350 years. Even today this is the main address for those who want to purchase nuts, honey, dried fruits, traditional sweets and herbal remedies.\*\*\***Unique Moments:** During visit of Spice Market we will have a short break at Ali Muhiddin Haci Bekir's shop – the inventor of Turkish delight. From the time of its founding during the Ottoman Empire, the name Haci Bekir has become a legend in Ottoman and Turkish confectionery and a leading symbol of this art.

Then try your hand at bargaining 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”

Your introduction to Istanbul concludes with a 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.

Afternoon at leisure.

**Overnight at Four Seasons Sultanahmet Hotel in Istanbul.**



Day 4  
(B-D)

**ISTANBUL – GALLIPOLI – TROY - CANAKKALE**

Drive south to the **Gallipoli Peninsula**, site of Anzac Cove. Time in the Military Museum before crossing the Dardanelles by ferry and onwards to **Troy**, where excavations first began in the late 1800's. Arrive in the town of Canakkale, a typical Turkish Town on the Marmara seaside.

**Gallipoli Peninsula**

The World War I for control of the Dardanelles (Hellespont) 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.

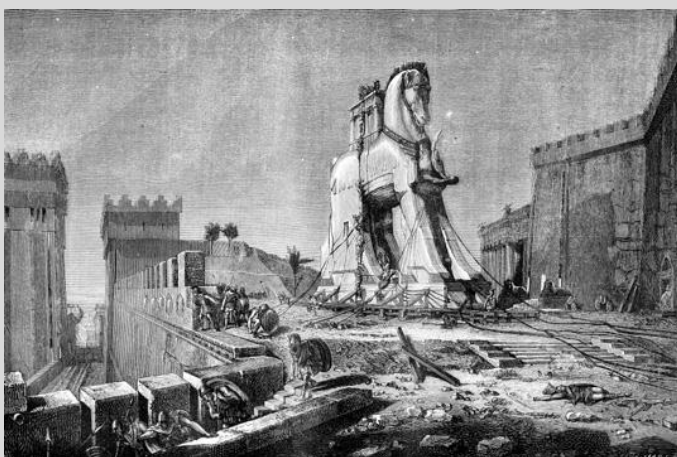


Ottoman forces, some of whom were commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Kemal (later Atatürk) knew that if the Allied ships got through, it might mean the conquest of their country. Today, the Gallipoli battlefields are silent, preserved as a national park strewn with marble and bronze monuments, among the most emotionally touching places to visit in Turkey.



## 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.

**Dinner and Overnight ( Sea View Rooms) at Kolin Hotel in Canakkale.**

Day 5  
(B)

### CANAKKALE - IZMIR

Be dazzled by the archaeological delights on offer today. The scenic road takes you to **Assos**, where the city's ancient walls are amongst the best preserved in Turkey. Visit the Temple of Athena before continuing through olive groves, flat plains, past pebbly Aegean beaches and fertile agricultural land to the ancient ruins of **Pergamun**, which rose to prominence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. See the **Asclepion** the theatre and temple remains.

**\*\* Unique Moments :** 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.

**Overnight at Key Hotel at Izmir.**

Day 6  
(B)

### IZMIR – EPHEBUS - IZMIR

This morning explore the important site of **Ephesus**—one of the best-preserved and most extensive (2,000 acres) classical Greco-Roman cities in Asia. Located 60 miles from Izmir, Ephesus



dates to at least 1300 BC and was home to the early Philosopher Heraclitus. As the commercial center and capital city of Roman Asia Minor, it was once the fourth-largest city in the Roman Empire, boasting a population numbering more than 300,000. One ancient legend attributes the founding of Ephesus to the Amazons of Greek mythology. Another credits the Athenian Androclus, who received advice from

an oracle to establish a colony at the "place of the fish and the boar." And so, when he and his crew saw a wild pig charge out of underbrush set ablaze inadvertently by locals grilling fish, he staked his claim on the Anatolian shore. Access to the **Terrace Houses** excavation to see the beautiful mosaic floors and frescoed walls followed by the **museum** and the **Temple of Artemis**, one of the original Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

**Overnight at Key Hotel at Izmir.**



Day 7  
(B)

**IZMIR – KAYSERI - CAPPADOCIA**

Fly to Kayseri in central Turkey to access Goreme, a pictures town in Cappadocia famous for its “**Fairy Chimneys**” the pinnacle shaped monoliths, and underground cities. See the extraordinary rock-carved Byzantine Churches, now an open-air museum, famous for their painted frescoes.

**Overnight at Museum Hotel in Cappadocia.**

Day 8  
(B)

**CAPPADOCIA**

Once heart of the ancient Hittite Empire and later a strategic point on the Silk Road. Cappadocia has an incredible historical heritage so plan the day to suit. We visit the **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.



Explore 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. Your tour will continue with a visit to a potter's

workshop and the Goreme Rug Weavers Association.

Optionally this afternoon take a hike along the Red Valley.

**Overnight at Museum Hotel in Cappadocia.**

Day 9  
(B)

**CAPPADOCIA – KAYSERI - ISTANBUL**

Fly back to Istanbul and your hotel.

This afternoon explore the **Dolmabahce Palace**, which was built in the mid-19th century by Sultan Abdulmecit I. The facade stretches for 600 meters along the European shore of the Bosphorus and was the last home of the Ottoman Sultans.

**Overnight at Four Seasons Sultanahmet Hotel in Istanbul.**



Day 10  
(B)

**ISTANBUL - ...**

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

**B = Breakfast**

**L = Lunch**

**D = Dinner**

**PRIVATE TOUR PACKAGE PRICES between 05.01.2017 – 31.03.2017**

	PACKAGE PRICE	VEHICLE
02	\$ 2.020.- per person in twin/double room	06 seater A/C deluxe Mini bus
04	\$ 1.525.- per person in twin/double room	10 seater A/C deluxe Mini bus
06	\$ 1,300.- per person in twin/double room	12 seater A/C deluxe Mini bus

**Our Services Includes:**

- Deluxe class hotel accommodation for 9 nights
- 11 included meals consisting of:
- 9 buffet breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner
- Touring by private deluxe air-conditioned mini bus
- 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 Ephesus archaeological site
- Visit of ancient Pergamum, including entrance fees for the Asclepion
- Visit of Troy archaeological site
- Visit of World War I memorials at Gallipoli
- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- Baggage handling
- 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
- 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 Diyarbakır, 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 Hacı Bekir's shop**
- **Phaeton/Fayton ride in Izmir**
- **Visit a local village house in Cappadocia and get to know the family members**
- **Try a Turkish Tea with the locals**

## SUGGESTED HOTELS

### ISTANBUL

Four Seasons Sultanahmet Hotel Istanbul at superior room including daily breakfast  
5 Star Deluxe  
<http://www.fourseasons.com/istanbul/>  
or similar

### CANAKKALE

Kolin Hotel at standard room including daily breakfast and open dinner  
5 Star  
[www.kolinhotel.com](http://www.kolinhotel.com)  
or similar

### IZMIR

Key Hotel at standard room including daily breakfast  
Special Category Boutique Style  
[www.keyhotel.com](http://www.keyhotel.com)  
or similar

### CAPPADOCIA

Museum Hotel at deluxe room including daily breakfast  
Special Category Boutique Style  
[www.museumhotel.com.tr](http://www.museumhotel.com.tr)  
or similar