

## ISTANBUL PRIVATE SHORE EXCURSION PROGRAMS

ISTPRV01

### FULL DAY PRIVATE TOUR OF ISTANBUL WITH HISTORIAN GUIDE LECTURER

Today, you will start your exploration of history in the city by honoring the Ottoman Heritage of Istanbul with a visit to the magnificent home of the Ottoman Sultans; **Topkapi Palace!** Located on the very cape of the peninsula where Constantinople was founded, Topkapi Palace was built as the center of administration of the Ottoman Empire when the city was conquered by Ottoman Turks in 1453 AD. Leaving the Harem through the “Golden Corridor”, you will reach the inner courtyard to visit the **Treasury** that displays exclusive examples of jewelry and accessories that were dressed by the Sultans or were given as gifts to ambassadors. After the Topkapi Palace, you will carry on to the **Basilica of Saint Sophia**, one of the largest Christian shrines ever built in history. Adorned with rich mosaic murals, colossal columns and exposition of divine serenity, Saint Sophia is a true world heritage that has accommodated various faiths throughout the different periods of history and is currently operated as a museum displaying Byzantine art and architecture embellished by Ottoman taste. Istanbul boasts its monumental shrines of different faiths and **Blue Mosque** is probably one of the most famed masterpieces of Ottoman religious architecture. Standing in great prestige with its six minarets and perfect proportioned dome, it is named after its Turquoise colored tiles made of quartz minerals. Ottoman Sultans preferred to pray in this timeless shrine due to its incomparable beauty until when the empire collapsed after the World War. The more you listen to the in-depth lectures of your private guide today, the more you will comprehend the priorities the administrators of Constantinople had to execute to ensure that the city continues its existence in safety against external threats. As a city that was defended by its “inaccessible” fortifications, Constantinople needed to have endless water supplies to enable its inhabitants to resist sieges. To serve this purpose, a large number of underground water reservoirs were built through various neighborhoods of the city such as the **Underground Cistern** known by the locals as the Sunken Cistern. The impressive structure built in 6<sup>th</sup> century with 336 columns erected upwards underneath the streets running through the Old City to constitute ample space to store water, is now operating as a venue for cultural activities besides attracting visitors as a unique museum. Afterwards, you will find yourself drifting through one of the earliest shopping malls ever built in history, **Grand Bazaar** which maintains its charm and volume of business to the modern day with its indoor and outdoor sections. Istanbul has been the center of commerce and trade between the Orient and the Occident even before the arrival of Ottomans. **Nuru Osmaniye District** (Glamour of the Ottomans) was where the Genoese and Venetian merchants had their ware houses where they store their inventory of brass, copper, rugs and tiles before they were loaded on the ships to sail to Venice and Genoa.





**Duration** : 8 hours  
**Including** : Transportation from/to Istanbul Port, Professional Historian Guide, Entrance fees,  
**Excluding** : All Personal expenses, Driver & Guide Tip  
**Available Languages** : English, Spanish, Portuguese

<b>PAX</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>RATE PER PERSON</b>	<b>€ 109</b>	<b>€ 63</b>	<b>€ 48</b>	<b>€ 41</b>	<b>€ 36</b>	<b>€ 33</b>	<b>€ 31</b>	<b>€ 29</b>	<b>€ 28</b>

**Note:** All prices are Net without commission.

**Note:** HISTORY GUIDE LECTURER IS PROFESSIONAL ACADEMICS, HISTORIANS AND WRITERS, WITH IN-DEPTH HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE OF TURKEY AND THE SITE VISITED.



**ISTPRV02**

**PRIVATE TOUR OF CUKURCUMA & MUSEUM OF INNOCENCE & PERA MUSEUM**

Today, you will visit one of the busiest spots in Istanbul, **Taksim Square**, is next for a much better comprehension of the social diversity of the city. You will dig in through the side streets here, giving you also the chance to pursue the truly off-the-beaten paths of the city, to reach the antique stores of **Cukurcuma**, where Istanbulers go for antique hunting, to see fascinating collectibles in wood and glassware. Then you will visit **The Museum of The Innocence** which is a 19th-century house in the Cukurcuma district that gives the name to the novel Nobel Prize-winning author Orhan Pamuk. You will continue your touring with **Pera Museum** where you will view the rich art collection of Suna Inan Kirac Foundation including the paintings of Osman Hamdi, regarded as the only “native orientalist artist”. The museum also hosts the collection of historical measurement equipment and handcrafts made of Kutahya tiles.



- Duration** : 4 hours
- Including** : Transportation from/to Istanbul Port, Professional Guiding Service, Entrance fees
- Excluding** : All Personal expenses, Driver & Guide Tip
- Available Languages** : English, Spanish, Portuguese

<b>PAX</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>RATE PER PERSON</b>	<b>€ 76</b>	<b>€ 42</b>	<b>€ 30</b>	<b>€ 25</b>	<b>€ 21</b>	<b>€ 19</b>	<b>€ 17</b>	<b>€ 16</b>	<b>€ 15</b>

**Note:** All prices are Net without commission.