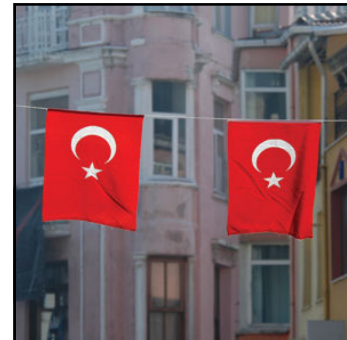


TURKISH DELIGHT TOUR

September 15 - September 25, 2011 15 Days

PACE OF TOUR

Leisurely Active



This in-depth vacation is ideal for those who wish to see Turkey's many famous attractions. Your Istanbul stay includes visits to the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Seraglio, and the Grand Bazaar. Cross the Bosphorus into Asia Minor and continue to Bursa, the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, where guided sightseeing includes the Green Ottoman Complex and the Great Mosque. Via Gordion, where Alexander the Great cut the proverbial knot and opened the way to Asia, continue to Earth Tumulus. In Ankara, capital of the Turkish Republic since 1923, visit the Mausoleum of Atatürk and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. Explore the exotic Caravansary of Agcikarahan. In Cappadocia, visits to the early Christians' rock chapels and the underground city of Öykonak are included. Also visit the fascinating archaeological site of Hierapolis in Pamukkale. Discover the fascinating history of Ephesus, Troy, and the World War I Cemetery on your way back to Istanbul.



TOUR PRICE per person, sharing.

Double occupancy \$3,911
Single supplement \$467

DEPOSIT: \$300 per person non-refundable.

HEALTH: None required. Consult with your physician and health clinic.

DOCUMENTATION: Valid Canadian passport 6 months beyond return date (recommended).

INSURANCE: Comprehensive Insurance \$150 including tax.

VISA: Required for Canadian Citizens. Available upon arrival for approx. USD \$60

INCLUSIONS

- Professional Tour Director and local guides.
- Flights from Toronto (Ask for airfare from other cities).
- Accommodation in first class hotels. • Gratuities to Guides & Coach drivers.
- Meals as listed. • Sightseeing as listed.
- Roundtrip airport transfers at destination.
- Tour Leader accompanies you from Toronto with a minimum number of participants.

Day 1 - DEPART TORONTO - ISTANBUL - Depart for your transatlantic flight.

Day 2 - ARRIVE IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY (D) - After arrival at the Airport, check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free. At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at your hotel.

Day 3 - ISTANBUL (B) - Start your sightseeing at Emperor Justinian's Hagia Sophia and Sultan Ahmet's Blue Mosque, magnificent monuments to two competing world religions standing peacefully side by side. Next, turn to the Topkapi Seraglio, the residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Admire its exquisite collection of Chinese porcelain and the stunning Imperial Treasury, including the "Spoonmaker's Diamond." After a lunch break, tour the Grand Bazaar with its 4,000 tiny shops. The rest of the afternoon is free.

Day 4 - ISTANBUL - BURSA (B,D) - Cross the Bosphorus and then follow the shores of the Sea of Marmara to the Gulf of Gemlik. Here you head inland towards the Uludag, also called the Mount Olympus of Mysia, a 7,700-foot skiing mountain. In the afternoon, visit the great monuments to this period: the ornate Green Ottoman Complex and the Great Mosque (Ulu Camii) and the ancient Covered Bazaar.

Day 5 - BURSA - ANKARA (B,D) - Motor into the heart of the Anatolian Highland. After a break at Eskisehir, whose meerschaum pipes are world famous, head for Gordion. Tour the excavations of the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Phrygia, where Alexander the Great cut the proverbial knot and thus opened the way to Asia. Hear about the legend of King Midas with the golden touch as you visit the ruler's great Earth Tumulus. Overnight in Ankara, capital of the Turkish Republic.

Day 6 - ANKARA - CAPPADOCIA (B,D) - Morning visit to the Mausoleum of Ataturk, the revered founder of the Republic, and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations with its unique collections. In the afternoon, head through the salt steppes and swamps of central Anatolia towards the volcanic plateau of Cappadocia, and stop south of the great salt lake Tuz Gölü in the fortress-like Caravansary of Sultanhani.

Day 7 - CAPPADOCIA (B,D) - Today, visit the unreal moon-landscape of Göreme with its Rock Chapels carved by the early Christians and decorated with frescoes dating from the 6th to the 10th centuries. Next are the byzantine Monastic Complex of Zelve, the Troglodyte Villages of Avcilar and Cavusin, and the Underground City of Özkonak. Before returning to the hotel, enjoy the sweeping panorama at ancient Ortahisar.

Day 8 - CAPPADOCIA - KONYA (B,D) - West today to the land of the Whirling Dervishes and to Konya. Today it thrives on agriculture and the manufacture of fine carpets. Afternoon sightseeing features visits to three outstanding Seljuk structures: the Mevlana Monastery of the Dervishes, now a museum; the Karatay Medrese (theological school); and the elegant lince Minaret.

Day 9 - KONYA - ANTALYA (B,D) - Drive west to Aksehir, then south across the Taurus Mountains into the luxuriant green forests, orchards, and olive groves on the hills sloping down to the sparkling blue Mediterranean Sea.

Day 10 - AT LEISURE IN ANTALYA (B,D) - A full day at leisure to enjoy this Mediterranean paradise.

Day 11 - ANTALYA - PAMUKKALE (B,D) - Morning drive inland across two mountain passes to Pamukkale. The name means "Cotton Castle" and refers to the spectacular white lime cascades formed by its hot springs. Visit the fascinating archaeological site of Hierapolis, the thermal resort. At the hotel tonight, a leisurely bath in a pool of hot thermal water might be just the way to relax.

Day 12 - PAMUKKALE - IZMIR (B,D) - Follow the valley of the Menderes River to Ephesus, home of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus and later the capital of Roman Asia Minor. Visit one of the best-preserved ancient Amphitheatres, then drive up to the Chapel marking the site where the Virgin Mary is believed to have spent her last days. Overnight in Izmir (Smyrna), Homer's birthplace on the Aegean coast.

Day 13 - IZMIR - TROY AREA (B,D) - Start with visits to the Pergamum Museum and the Asclepion, a shrine to the Greek god of medicine. Then, enjoy vistas of the Greek island of Lesbos as you follow the shores of the Bay of Edremit. Continue to Troy, the perfect place to brush up on Homer's Trojan War, hollow wooden horse and all. Spend the night at nearby Canakkale.

Day 14 - TROY AREA - ISTANBUL (B,D) - By ferry across the Dardanelles back to Europe and the 20th century. Visit the World War I battlefields on the Gallipoli Peninsula. Then, drive along the European shore of the Sea of Marmara back to Istanbul. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner.

Day 15 - DEPART ISTANBUL - TORONTO (B) - Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

INCLUDED SIGHTSEEING

Istanbul - Welcome and farewell dinners; guided sightseeing, visits to Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Seraglio, Grand Bazaar.

Bursa - Guided sightseeing including visits to the Green Ottoman Complex and the Great Mosque.

Gordion - Guided visit of the excavations and King Midas' Earth Tumulus.

Ankara - Guided sightseeing including visit to Atatürk's Mausoleum and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations.

Cappadocia - Guided visit of the Caravansary of Sultanhani, the Rock Chapels of Göreme, Monastic complex of Zelve, the Troglodyte Village of Avcilar, and Underground City of Özkonak.

Konya - Guided sightseeing including Dervish Mevlana Monastery, Karatay Medrese, and Ince Minaret.

Pamukkale - Guided visit of the Hierapolis.

Ephesus - Guided visit of the archaeological site and Chapel of the Virgin Mary.

Pergamum - Guided visit of the Pergamum Museum and Asclepion.

Troy - Guided visit of the archaeological site.

Dardanelles - Ferry crossing of the Straits.

Anzac - Take pictures of the cemetery.