

The Best of Turkey

8 Day Tour from Istanbul to Istanbul

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Vacation overview

Enjoy a week's vacation in this fascinating country and visit the main highlights. Start in Istanbul, where a welcome dinner is included, as well as guided sightseeing with visits to Topkapi Seraglio, the Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, and more. A special visit has been included to the Underground Cistern, brought to life in Dan Brown's Inferno. See the Anzac Cemetery, cross the Dardanelles by ferry, and visit the archaeological site of Troy. In Pergamum, visit its museum and the Asclepion. Continue to Ephesus, where you visit the archaeological site and museum, and receive a group picture. In Pamukkale, visit the Hierapolis, in Bursa, the Great Mosque, and in Iznik, visits to the St. Sophia Church and the Archaeological Museum are included. Return to Istanbul and enjoy a leisurely private cruise on the Bosphorus, then a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.





Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Istanbul, Turkey

After arrival at Atatürk Airport, check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free to start soaking up the unique atmosphere of this city built on two continents. At 6:30 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner with wine at your hotel. (D)

Day 2 Istanbul

Founded by the Greeks as Byzantium more than 2,500 years ago, renamed Constantinople in 330 AD when Constantine the Great elected it the capital of the Roman Empire, and finally called Istanbul after the Ottoman conquest in the 15th century, the city on the Bosphorus remains one of the most exciting places in the world. Its strategic location as gateway between Orient and Occident, the Islamic and the Christian worlds, and the Black Sea and the Mediterranean predestined it for a turbulent history. Guided sightseeing starts at TOPKAPI PALACE, the residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Admire the rich and spectacular kaftans of the sultans that were worn during the Ottoman period. Then, tour the HAGIA SOPHIA, followed by the ROMAN HIPPODROME, and visit Sultan Ahmet's BLUE MOSQUE. [LF] A special visit has been included to the UNDERGROUND CISTERN, brought to life in Dan Brown's best seller Inferno. For a taste of Turkish nightlife, join our optional dinner outing and discover the fascination of belly dancing. (B)

Day 3 Istanbul–Troy Area

Visit the colorful GRAND BAZAAR before setting out on your discovery tour of a country with the population of Britain and more than three times its size. Drive along the European shore of the Sea of Marmara and head westward through sunflower and olive groves to the Dardanelles. Visit the WWI battlefields on the Gallipoli peninsula, where Allied troops, mainly Australians and New Zealanders, suffered heavy casualties in a disastrous campaign. Pay tribute to the heroes of those tragic months of 1915 at the ANZAC CEMETERY and the LONE PINE MEMORIAL. Travel by ferry across the Dardanelles to the Troy area for your first overnight in Asia on the Aegean coast. (B,D)

Day 4 Troy Area–Pergamum–Kusadasi

Enjoy a guided visit of TROY, the perfect place to brush up on Homer's Trojan War—hollow wooden horse and all! Vistas of the Greek isle of Lesbos greet you as you follow the shores of the Bay of Edremit. Continue south to Pergamum, an ancient center of learning and the arts, and visit its MUSEUM. After lunch, visit the ASCLEPION, a shrine to the Greek god of medicine. Drive to Kusadasi for an overnight. (B,D)

Day 5 Kusdasi–Ephesus–Pamukkale

Today, visit Ephesus, home of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, and later, the capital of Roman Asia Minor. Visit the SITE OF ANCIENT RUINS and the ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM with its famous statue of Artemis, goddess of fertility and destiny. At this beautiful location, a souvenir GROUP PICTURE will be taken. Then, travel along the Silk Road, and through the lush valley of the meandering Menderes River. Next, Pamukkale. The name means "Cotton Castle" and refers to the spectacular white lime cascades formed by its hot springs. At your hotel tonight, maybe a leisurely bath in a pool of hot thermal water might be just the way to relax after a busy touring day. (B,D)

Day 6 Pamukkale–Hierapolis–Bursa

This morning, visit the fascinating archaeological site of HIERAPOLIS, the thermal resort founded by a Pergamene king in 190 BC and greatly enlarged and embellished by the Romans.

Then, enjoy the ever-changing cultivated landscapes and timeless scenes of rural life on your way to Bursa. Spot farmers working their fields or transporting produce in traditional horse-drawn carts. Bursa lies in the shade of the Uludag—also called Mount Olympus of Mysia—a 7,700-foot-high ski mountain surrounded by lovely orchards. Founded by the Greeks, like most ancient cities in this part of the world, and hotly contested during the Crusades, Bursa had its heyday as the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. In the afternoon, visit the GREAT MOSQUE (Ulu Camii). Also on the agenda, of course, are the ancient Covered Bazaar and the Silk Market. (B,D)

Day 7 Bursa–Iznik–Istanbul

Visit Iznik, site of the first Ecumenical Council. See its ancient city walls before visiting ST. SOPHIA CHURCH and the ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM. Later, return to Istanbul. Tonight, a PRIVATE CRUISE on the Bosphorus River and a farewell dinner with wine at a local restaurant celebrates the success of your Turkish adventure. (B,D)

Day 8 Istanbul

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

Vacation Highlights

ISTANBUL

Welcome dinner and a special farewell dinner at a local restaurant; guided sightseeing, including visits to Topkapi Seraglio, Blue Mosque, Roman Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, [LF] visit the underground cistern, and Grand Bazaar, private cruise on the Bosphorus

DARDANELLES

Ferry crossing of the Straits

ANZAC

Pay tribute to the fallen war heroes at the cemetery

TROY

Guided visit of the archaeological site

PERGAMUM

Guided visit of the Pergamum Museum and Asclepion

EPHESUS

Guided visit of the archaeological site and museum; group picture

PAMUKKALE

Guided visit of the Hierapolis

BURSA

Guided sightseeing including a visit to the Great Mosque

IZNIK

Visit St. Sophia Church and the archaeological museum; Bosphorus cruise

NOTE:

- Please check visa requirements with your local consulate(s); responsibility for obtaining

visas rests with the traveler.

Meals

Full buffet breakfast daily; 6 three-course dinners with wine, including a welcome dinner and a special farewell dinner with wine in Istanbul

Optional Excursions

The following list of optional excursions are **examples only** for this vacation. These optional excursions might or might not be offered. Whether it's a special dinner, a local show or a special behind-the-scenes glimpse into an historical site, optional excursions are a wonderful way to enrich your vacation even further. Plus, they give you flexibility. We include the must-see sites and experiences, and we also understand that people take interest in different activities and may want to craft a more personal vacation by hand-picking optional excursions that appeal to them.

Availability is subject to sufficient participation, weather conditions, seasonal suitability, days of operation, group interests, and general feasibility for your vacation. The approximate value listed gives you a good, general idea of what you can expect to pay but may vary once you are on your vacation. Some information provided might be in a foreign currency; you can use our online [currency converter](#) for exchange rate information.

Once you have booked your vacation, Globus provides the ability to pre-purchase excursions, register for your vacations and provide emergency contact information online.

CITY: Istanbul

Turkish Dinner and Folklore Show An evening at one of Istanbul's favorite night clubs. Enjoy a succulent dinner, half a bottle of wine per person included, while Turkish folklore groups, singers, and belly dancers put on a dazzling show.

Approximate value: €66 EUR per person

Travel Terms & Conditions

The purchase of any travel services offered by Globus, constitutes a contractual arrangement between you and Globus, and represents your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions. Please ensure that you read carefully and understand the Terms & Conditions prior to booking. These Terms & Conditions cover Deposit & Final Payment information, Air-Inclusive Deposits & Final Payment, Revisions & Revision Fees, Air Arrangements, Participation, Travelers Who Need Special Assistance, Young Travelers, Smoking, Price Policy, Visas and Passports, Hotels & Accommodations, Baggage Allowance, Travel Documents, Not Included in the Land Price, Refunds, Service Inquires After the Vacation, Holidays, Safety, Photos & Pictures, Optional Excursions, and Responsibility.

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Important Notes

- Vacation departures, itineraries and prices are subject to change.
- A non-refundable, non-transferable deposit of \$250 per person per vacation is required for Globus to reserve space for you. View [Terms & Conditions](#) for limited exceptions.
- Charges not included in the land vacation price: airfare to and from the start of your vacation; airline baggage fees including checked and/or excess baggage fees; Federal inspection fees for the Federal U.S. Customs and Immigrations; agricultural tax; other per person taxes imposed by government entities; applicable cruise taxes, fees, fares and port charges; passports; visas and vaccinations; transfers; tips to your Tour or Cruise Director, Local Host, driver, Local Guides, and/or ships' crew; gratuities on ferries, trains, and cruise ships; laundry; telephone; minibar; alcohol, beverages, and food outside of the contracted menu as presented at a hotel or restaurant (these extra items will be billed to you before leaving the hotel, ship, or restaurant); additional excursions and activities not listed as 'included' in the itinerary; portage at airports or train stations; Travel Protection premiums; and all other items of a personal nature.