



## 15 NIGHTS / 16 DAYS EXPLORE TURKEY

**DAY 1 - ARRIVAL TO ISTANBUL AND PRIVATE TRANSFER TO YOUR HOTEL.**

Overnight at: <https://www.sevenhillspalace.com/> for 4 nights in Deluxe Room, 1 Queen Bed, Non-Smoking, Pool View on bed and breakfast basis.

**DAY 2 - PRIVATE BYZANTINE & OTTOMAN RELICS (breakfast-lunch)**



In the morning sightseeing tour in the old city of Constantine, Istanbul starts with Hippodrome Square where chariot races were once held in Roman Age and today one can see the Obelisk from Egypt, the Fountain of Wilhelm II and the Colossus, Serpentine Column from Delphi and the marvelous Underground Cistern built in order to solve water supply problem nearby. Followed by a visit to the masterpiece of

Byzantine architecture St. Sophia operates as mosque today. The splendor of the interior decoration, the massiveness of its architectural proportions being unusual for a church and the most important of all, the height of its



central dome has amazed everyone since it was first constructed. Then only a short walk away, **Sultan**

**Ahmed Mosque (Blue Mosque)** is the only mosque with six minarets in Istanbul. Called as blue mosque by foreigners because of the dominant color of more than 20,000 Iznik tiles decorating the spacious interior. The Mosque is regarded as the peak achievement of Ottoman architecture. The highlights of the afternoon are a visit to the magnificent Topkapi Palace which is the only palace remaining from the Ottomans reflecting the splendor of the once mighty empire. End the day with a visit to the incredible **Grand Bazaar**.



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### DAY 3 - BOSPHORUS CRUISE BY PUBLIC FERRY WITH A VISIT TO SULEYMANIYE MOSQUE (breakfast-lunch)



Enjoy the **Bosphorus Cruise** on a public ferry (also known as Gypsy Boat) passing half a dozen Ottoman imperial palaces, traditional Yalis (waterside villas) and shore villages. We drive to visit **Suleymaniye Mosque** which was built by the most important architect of Ottoman times, Architect Sinan, this superb monument is Istanbul's largest mosque complex.



### DAY 4 – PRIVATE ECLECTIC TOUR OF ISTANBUL (breakfast-lunch)



This private tour includes a perfect visit to the **Galata Tower** built by the Genoese in 1348. The **Old Pera** was given to them by the Ottoman Empire because of their help in defeating a Crusade. After a short gentle walk we take the oldest functioning metros in the world. The **"Tunnel"**, Completed in 1873, it is the shortest metro ever built which connects **Karakoy** to **Beyoglu**, followed by a local window shopping if you would like to experience. We will visit the **Galata Mevlevi Lodge (Galata Mevlevihanesi)** is an exciting museum showcases variety of Turkish calligraphic art items, music items and items



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belonging to the Mevlevi culture. Gentle walk to **Taksim Square** then drive into the colorful sights, vibrant sounds and intriguing scents of the **Egyptian Bazaar (Spice Market)**.



#### **WHIRLING DERVISHES CEREMONY IN THE EVENING**



Near the mighty Hagia Sophia Basilica and the magnificent Topkapi Palace, **Hodjapasha Cultural Center** is a delightful piece of the city's striking cultural mosaic. Transformed from a large 15th century hamam (Turkish bath), it now welcomes visitors under its high dome ceilings to showcase some of the best of this vast country's traditions.

Sufi whirling is a form of Sama or physically active meditation which originated among Sufis, and which is still practiced by the Sufi Dervishes of the Mevlevi order. It is a customary dance performed



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within the Sema, or worship ceremony, through which der vishes (also called semazens) aim to reach the source of all perfection, or kamala. This is sought through abandoning one's nafs, egos or personal desires, by listening to the music, focusing on God, and spinning one's body in repetitive circles, which has been seen as a symbolic imitation of planets in the Solar System orbiting the sun. As explained by Sufis. In the symbolism of the Sema ritual, the semazen's camel's hair hat (sikke) represents the tombstone of the ego; his wide, white skirt represents the ego's shroud. By removing his black cloak, he is spiritually reborn to the truth. At the beginning of the Sema, by holding his arms crosswise, the semazen appears to represent the number one, thus testifying to God's unity. While whirling, his arms are open: his right arm is directed to the sky, ready to receive God's beneficence; his left hand, upon which his eyes are fastened, is turned toward the earth. The Semazen conveys God's spiritual gift to those who are witnessing the Sema. Revolving from right to left around the heart, The Semazen embraces all humanity with love.

#### **DAY 5 – FLIGHT TO KAYSERI & PRIVATE CLASSIC CAPPADOCIA TOUR (breakfast-lunch)**

Pick-up from your hotel and private transfer to the airport for your flight to Kayseri.

**Turkish Airlines, Istanbul (IST) to Kayseri (ASR): 09:05 – 10:25 am**

Arrive in Kayseri or Nevsehir airport and transfer to Cappadocia for your tour.

#### **PRIVATE CLASSICAL CAPPADOCIA TOUR & SUNSET CAMEL SAFARI**

Meeting with your guide and visit the lunar landscape of Cappadocia, starting with the rock formations beyond; visit **Devrent and Pasabag** –three coned fairy chimneys” where the voice of wind mixes with the “songs of fairies”. Lunch is in **Avanos**, center of terra cotta work of art since 3000 BC. In the afternoon visit the famous UNESCO World Heritage Site **Goreme Open Air Museum** and see the best examples of Byzantine art in Cappadocia in rock-cut churches with frescoes and paintings (10th & 13th century). **Private transfer to your Sunset Camel Safari (90 min.) then head back your hotel.**



Overnight in Cappadocia at: <https://www.argosincappadocia.com/home-page> for 2 nights in Deluxe Room on bed and breakfast basis.



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## DAY 6 - HOT AIR BALLOON RIDING TOUR & PRIVATE HIDDEN DWELINNGS OF CAPPADOCIA TOUR & TURKISH NIGHT SHOW WITH DINNER (breakfast-lunch-dinner)



**Early morning hot -air balloon.** Experience begins by transfer of the passengers to the headquarters with luxury minibuses. Our passengers will have an open buffet - full catered delicious breakfast and their check -in will be made while the pilots are choosing a good launch site according to the wind directions. Once the launch site is selected, the passengers will proceed to the launch site where they will witness how the crew and the pilot unload, assemble and inflate the balloon. Following an introduction to the safety factors of ballooning with your pilot, your amazing experience will begin. The balloons will climb approximately 300 meters (1000 feet) during the flight. A panoramic and marvelous view will

greet the passengers while drifting above the valleys and between rock formations. Balloons move by the wind and you will float wherever the wind takes you; so that each flight brings new and memorable experiences. Each passenger is to dress according to the temperature. Flat shoes, hat, sunglasses and of course camera is a must. The flight presents many photo opportunities and lifetime memories to cherish. The flight will last approximately for 60 minutes. In keeping with ballooning tradition, our passengers are treated to a champagne ceremony upon landing by our crew. The passengers will receive a memento certificate. All our passengers are covered with insurance by Eureka Insurance Company. After the flight our luxury minibuses will take you back to your hotel. Your entire balloon adventure lasts about 180 minutes.



### PRIVATE HIDDEN DWELINNGS OF CAPPADOCIA TOUR



After second breakfast at your hotel meeting with your guide and driver for start your next tour. **Red Valley**, with its fabulous volcanic rock formations, is in the heart of Cappadocia but away from the tourist crowd. Rock-Cut hermit churches with frescoes and paintings fit with the Valley's meditative atmosphere,



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remained intact since the beginning. Our lovely hike will start from a beautiful panoramic point presenting us great light in the morning for pictures. After the hike we give a refreshment break in Cavusin village which will be complemented by a visit to the ruins of **Cavusin Town**. After lunch, 20-minute drive will take us to the least visited Underground city; **Ozkonak** which was discovered by a villager while he was looking for the water disappearing from his irrigation system in his field. Unlike other underground cities, Ozkonak has different ventilation and security system. 3 of the 5 floors are open to visitors and believed to shelter many people from persecution and loots.



#### **TURKISH NIGHT SHOW WITH DINNER (20:00 – 23.30)**



#### **DAY 7 – FLIGHT TO IZMIR (breakfast-lunch)**

06:00 am, Depart from your hotel and transfer to Kayseri airport for your flight to Izmir.

**Sun Express Airlines, Kayseri (ASR) to Izmir (ADB): 08:35 – 10:10 am**

Arrive in Izmir airport and transfer to your hotel in Kusadasi.

**Overnight in Kuşadası at: <http://lavistahotel.net/en/homepage/> for 2 nights in Suite on bed and breakfast basis.**

#### **DAY 8 - PRIVATE PAMUKKALE TOUR (breakfast-lunch)**



**Pamukkale;** with the other name “The Cotton Castle” One of the natural wonders of Turkey; the thermal spa of Pamukkale has abundant supplies of remarkable hot spring waters laden with calcareous salts. It is claimed to benefit heart and circulation complaints, as well as digestive disorders and rheumatic and kidney diseases. Nobody can dispute its excellent stress-relieving properties: a half-hour wallow will certainly



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relax you. Hierapolis; Walk around the ancient city, the monuments and the thermal baths. See the architectural genius of the theatre, the magnificently well -preserved Necropolis and the worldwide famous **Devil's Hole**. End of the tour head back to Kuşadası.

#### DAY 9 - PRIVATE EPHESUS TOUR & Izmir – Sanliurfa (breakfast-lunch)



Take off to the ancient city of Ephesus. Ephesus was undoubtedly one of the most important cultural centers of the ancient world. Impressive structures you will see include the Library of Celsus, Temple of Hadrian, Theater and Odeon. Close by is the House of the Virgin Mary where she is



believed to have spent her last years. On August 18th, 1961, Pope John XXII proclaimed the House of Virgin Mary at Ephesus to be sacred. You will have a chance to take a phial of Holy Water from the Sacred Spring.



End of the tour, you will be transferred to Izmir airport for your flight to Sanliurfa via Istanbul.

**Pegasus Airlines, Izmir (ADB) to Istanbul (SAW): 16:40 – 17:45 (1 hour 25 mnts connection)**

**Istanbul (SAW) to Şanlıurfa (GNY): 19:10 – 20:55**

Arrive in Şanlıurfa and private transfer to your hotel.

Overnight in Şanlıurfa at: <https://www.alahanotel.com/> for 3 nights in Exclusive Suite on bed and breakfast basis.



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## DAY 10 - PRIVATE URFA, GÖBEKLİ TEPE AND HARRAN TOUR (breakfast-lunch-dinner)



We will visit **Urfa Museum**, city tour with **Abraham's pool**, **Harran plateau** and finally **Gobekli Tepe** the oldest temple of the world a game changer in archeology world.

What a researcher would find in the books and articles about Neolithic Age until 15 -20 years ago as the most popular idea until a German archaeologist, Klaus Schmidt discovered Gobekli Tepe within 18 km. distance of Urfa, one of the



renowned mystic cities of human history. The world was dazzled with this surprising discovery because Gobekli Tepe was not only the earliest sanctuary on Earth, it was the oldest architectural monument too. It was dated to 10.000 B.C. to Pre -pottery Neolithic age miraculously pre dating the earliest settlements in Mesopotamia by 5000 years, Stonehenge in England 7000 years, Egyptian pyramids 7.500 years and Ggantija Temples in Malta 6.500 years. This fact indicates that humans had already achieved an unexpected



level of imagination and complex thinking at a time they were thought to be simple hunter-gatherers without any sign of agriculture yet. Back to Urfa (Şanlıurfa) for



overnight. We will experience the **Sira Night (Sira Gecesi)** in Urfa.

## DAY 11 – LEISURE DAY ON YOUR OWN (breakfast)

## DAY 12 - DRIVE TO GAZIANTEP ON THE WAY VISITING RUMKALE AND HALFETI (breakfast-lunch)



After breakfast we will head to **Şanlıurfa** with visit an amazing stop on the way at Halfeti at the banks of river Euphrates, a boat trip on the village sunken under the dam waters

**Rumkale** hopefully we will also see **Bald Ibis**, arrive to Gaziantep.



Overnight in Gaziantep at <https://www.divan.com.tr/otel/divan-gaziantep-otel> for 1 night in Suite King City View on bed and breakfast basis.



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## DAY 13 - PRIVATE GAZIANTEP TOUR & FLIGHT TO ISTANBUL (breakfast-lunch)



**Gaziantep** city of gastronomy also with famous baklava shops besides its history. We will be visiting new **Zeugma Mosaic Museum** – 2nd biggest in the world after Hatay Archeology Museum. Our exploring the city will continue with old city and copper makers bazaars and **Gaziantep War Museum**.



End of the tour private airport transfer to your Istanbul flight.

**Turkish Airlines, Gaziantep (GZT) to Istanbul (IST): 18:05 – 19:50**

Welcome to Istanbul airport and private transfer to your hotel.

Overnight in Istanbul at: <https://www.perapalace.com/> for 3 nights in Deluxe Golden Horn Side Room with King Bed on bed and breakfast basis.

## DAY 14 - PRIVATE PRINCES ISLAND TOUR BY PUBLIC FERRY (breakfast-lunch)



Explore Büyükada, the largest of Turkey's Princes islands, on this excursion. Cruise across the Sea of Marmara, watching the sights of Istanbul slip from view.

You can explore the pedestrianized island in the best possible way – by bike (not included) or spend time at leisure, perhaps relaxing on one of its beaches, before returning to Istanbul.

Depart from your hotel with your guide, and board the public ferry that will take you to the

Princes islands. The largest and most interesting of the islands is Büyükada, which is your destination for the day.

From the boat you can look back on the sights of Istanbul, seeing iconic landmarks such as Topkapi Palace and the pretty Kiz Kulesi (also known as the Maiden's Tower), which was featured in the James Bond film, The World is Not Enough.



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Dock in Büyükdade and then take a stroll through the streets with your guide, soaking up the laid-back atmosphere of island life. Your guide will tell you about the island's history during the ride, and about its time as a place of exile for banished statesmen and royalty, and of its life as a monastic settlement during Turkey's Byzantine-Christian period.

Pass lovely wooden mansions that are stunning examples of the island's late Ottoman-era architecture, and look out over the sparkling sea. Seagulls are everywhere in Büyükdade, and if you'd like to feed

them your guide will give you simits (bread with sesame seeds) so you can toss them a treat.

Meet your guide at a pre-arranged time for your public ferry ride back to Istanbul. The last leg of your journey will be by coach, and you'll be dropped off at your Istanbul hotel.



**DAY 15 - ENJOY AQUA FLORYA SHOPPING MALL AND AQUARIUM & PRIVATE SPICE BAZAAR FOOD TOUR AND COOKING CLASS (14:00 – 20:30) (breakfast-lunch-dinner)**



Morning at desired time, your driver and guide will pick you up at your hotel and go to the Aqua Florya.





## PRIVATE SPICE BAZAAR FOOD TOUR AND COOKING CLASS (14:00 – 20:30)

(14:00 – 20:30) Enjoy visiting an historic spice & food bazaar, tasting what it has on offer then cooking your own meal in a professional kitchen with our chefs. It's essential to have a guide in the hustle and bustle of the 17th century Spice Bazaar.

The Spice Bazaar is actually only 5 % spices! The other 95% of what the Spice Bazaar has to offer includes baklava, fresh fruits & nuts, fresh dates, charcuterie, specialty cheeses, Turkish delight (made of pomegranate, rose petals, white chocolate)

If you want to understand the vastly rich heritage of Turkish cuisine and how to cook with all of these ingredients yourself, then this tour is JUST RIGHT for YOU!

You will learn how to prepare a delicious five -course Turkish meal to reproduce back at home for family and friends.

**\*Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions or special considerations.**



**DAY 16 – PRIVATE TRANSFER TO AIRPORT FOR FLIGHT BACK HOME. (breakfast)  
End of the service.**



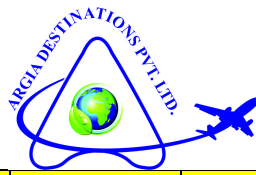
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Single Traveler	2 Guests P.P	4-8 Guests P.P	10-12 Guests P.P	14-16 Guests P.P	18-24 Guests P.P	26-40 Guests P.P
8829.00 USD	5274.00 USD	4231.00 USD	3616.00 USD	3152.00 USD	2851.00 USD	2543.00 USD

**\*PRICES FOR PER PERSON SHARING A DOUBLE ROOM OR A TRIPLE ROOM.**

**\*SINGLE SUPPLEMENT ON ALL PAX SEGMENTS = 469 USD**

**\* 0-2 years old kid free (per room 2 kids)**

**\* 2-14 years old kid %50 discount (per room 2 kids)**

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation at chosen boutique hotels mentioned on the itinerary on bed & breakfast basis
- All admissions, entrance and fees on tours including extra charges mentioned on the itinerary
- Lunch on tours at local restaurants where available
- 4 legs domestic economy class flight tickets mentioned on the itinerary.
- Professional English-speaking tour guides on tours. (Experienced between 06-18 years)
- All Private Transportations hotel – airport – hotel and destinations to destinations with a luxury A/C custom made vehicle
- %18 VAT for travel services and %8 VAT for accommodation

**PRICE EXCLUDES; International flights, personal expenses during the tour, beverages at lunch, dinners and customary tipping for guide & driver.**

Prices are net to Your Agency and mark up can be added according to your policies.

**Cancellation Policies:** Bookings can be cancelled without a charge until 72 hours prior to the transfer / tour time. Less than 72 hrs. notice is subject to full no-show.

**NOTES:** On mention the itinerary all hotels, tours, transfers, restaurants are following the COVID 19 Healthy Travel & Stay Measures.



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