

Turkish Delight

November 8 - 19, 2018

ITINERARY

Thur Nov 8

Depart USA for Istanbul

Fri Nov 09: Istanbul – Arrival

You will be transferred to your hotel in Istanbul upon arrival. (transfers not included.) The rest of the day is at leisure until you meet your tour director for a welcome briefing.

Deluxe & Superior: Renaissance Hotel Istanbul Bos.. or similar hotel

Barb aros Bulvari No: 145, Besiktas · Istanbul, 34349 Turkey / +90 212 340700

Sat Nov 10: Explore Istanbul

Today, enjoy a full-day tour of Istanbul including a visit to Topkapi Palace, residence of the Ottoman Sultans between 1453 and 1852 (excluding harem). Visit the Hippodrome which was once the center of life where chariot racing and other public events took place. Tour the Blue Mosque built between 1609 and 1616, and famous for its blue ceramic tiles. Your last stop will be the famous Grand Bazaar, the world's largest and oldest covered market with over 60 streets. In the evening, consider joining an optional dinner with belly dancing entertainment. (B)

Deluxe & Superior: Renaissance Hotel Istanbul Bos.. or similar hotel

Barb aros Bulvari No: 145, Besiktas · Istanbul, 34349 Turkey / +90 212 340700

Sun Nov 11: Istanbul – Ankara

In the morning, consider joining an optional tour of St. Sophia, a church built in the 6th century Byzantine capital, converted to a mosque by the Ottomans, and now a museum and one of the world's greatest architectural wonders. Continue to along the Bosphorus, enjoying the strait that separates Asia and Europe. Its shores are lined with fine neighborhoods, Ottoman palaces, fortresses, old wooden villas, hotels, parks and gardens, and restaurants and cafes. In the afternoon, depart for the capital city of Ankara. (B,D)

Deluxe & Superior: Crowne Plaza Ankara or similar hotel

Mevlana Blv. No. 2, 06330 Ankara, Turkey / +90 312 3030000

Mon Nov 12: Ankara – Cappadocia

In the morning, visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations with its Hittite treasures and artifacts from the world's oldest city. Continue with a visit of the Mausoleum of Ataturk, father of modern Turkey. Depart for Cappadocia, famous for its "moon-like" landscapes. En route, visit a 13th century caravanserai. Pay a visit to the underground city of Saratli. Enjoy dinner at an authentic local restaurant. Later in the evening, consider seeing an optional Whirling Dervishes performance. (B,D)

Deluxe & Superior: Kapadokya Lodge or similar hotel

Urgup yolu, Uchisar yol kav sagi, 50200 Nevsehir, Turkey / +90 384 2139945

Tue Nov 13: Explore Cappadocia

Consider an early morning optional hot air balloon tour. Experience floating through the volcanic valleys, fairy chimneys and caves at sunrise. After breakfast, visit Goreme, a historical region of Turkey, located among rock formations. It was first settled back in the Roman period. Many rock churches can still be seen today, as Christianity was then the prevailing religion in that region. Continue to the town of Avanos, renowned for its high quality earthenware. Also visit Pasabagi and the Red Valley, and attend a brief regional pottery workshop in a cave. (B,D)

Deluxe & Superior: Kapadokya Lodge or similar hotel

Urgup yolu, Uchisar yol kav sagi, 50200 Nevsehir, Turkey / +90 384 2139945

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ITINERARY (cont'd)

Wed Nov 14: Cappadocia – Pamukkale

After breakfast, depart for Pamukkale. En route, visit the famous mausoleum of the Sufi philosopher Mevlana. (B,D)

Deluxe & Superior: Spa Hotel Colossae Thermal or similar hotel

Karahayit Mevkii, Denizli, Pamukkale 20227, Turkey / +90 258 2714156

Thu Nov 15: Pamukkale – Kusadasi

Today, tour Pamukkale which means "Cotton Castle", describing the white lime cascades formed by hot mineral springs. Visit the ruins of the Roman health spa of Hierapolis. Continue to Kusadasi. (B,D)

Deluxe & Superior: Charisma Hotel or similar hotel

Akyar Mevkii No:5, Kusadasi 09400, Turkey / +90 256 6183266

Fri Nov 16: Ephesus & Virgin Mary's House – Kusadasi

Today, tour the ruins of Ephesus, an important cultural center of the ancient world, and explore the 2,000-year old marble streets, a theater, the Library of Celsius, a gymnasium, and Hadrian's Temple. Take a short drive to see the Virgin Mary's stone cottage. Continue to a regional rug production center to have firsthand experience of this unique art form. (B,D)

Deluxe & Superior: Charisma Hotel or similar hotel

Akyar Mevkii No:5, Kusadasi 09400, Turkey / +90 256 6183266

Sat Nov 17: Pergamum – Troy – Canakkale

After breakfast, depart for Pergamum and visit the ancient medical center Asklepion. Enjoy lunch with locals in a traditional village. Then continue to Troy with its famous wooden horse, best known for being the setting of the Trojan War. Continue to Canakkale for an overnight. (B,L,D)

Deluxe & Superior: Kolin Hotel or similar hotel

Kepez 17100, Canakkale - Turkey / +90 286 2180808

Sun Nov 18: Gallipoli – Dardanelles – Istanbul

In the morning, depart for Gallipoli, the site of many battles during WWII. Visit Anzac Cove, the Lone Pine Cemetery, and Chunuk Bair. Then, cross the Dardanelles to Istanbul. Enjoy a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Deluxe & Superior: Renaissance Hotel Istanbul Bos.. or similar hotel

Barbaros Bulvari No: 145, Besiktas · Istanbul, 34349 Turkey / +90 212 340700

Mon Nov 19: Istanbul – Return

You will be transferred to the Istanbul airport for your return flight home. (transfers not included.) (B)