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**Operated from our Beirut - Lebanon Headquarter**

## **TURKEY**

### **Trabzon & Istanbul Program**

### **7 - Day Itinerary**



*Turkey*  
*An epic Journey*

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### **Day 1 – Trabzon**

Welcome to Turkey!! You will be met at Trabzon Airport and transferred to the hotel. Rest and overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 2 – Trabzon**

After breakfast, you will explore the highlights of Trabzon city; study the extraordinary collection of Byzantine frescoes in the 13th century church of St. Sophia, visit Ataturk's Mansion on Soguk su hill facing Black Sea, Girls' Monastery on Boztepe Hill, Sera Lakeon lunch at a restaurant. After the tour, we return back to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 3 – Trabzon**

After breakfast, free time to explore the rest of the city and go shopping. Overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 4 – Trabzon - Istanbul**

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Trabzon Airport for your flight to Istanbul. Arrival in Istanbul and transfer to the hotel. Check in and have a rest. Overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 5 – Istanbul - Princess Island Tour**

Cruise on the Marmara Sea to go to Heybeliada for a horse carriage tour and soon after that, we take a ferry again to go to the biggest island (Büyükada). Followed by lunch and free time on Büyükada. Return to Istanbul by ferry and transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

### **Day 6 – Istanbul - 2 optional tours**

#### **Option 1: Byzantine and Ottoman Relics Full day with lunch**

After breakfast, explore the cultural treasures of the Ottoman and Byzantine Empires. Journey starts in Sultanahmet, the heart of the Old City of Constantinople, at the famous Hagia Sophia. Hagia Sophia is the most famous museum in Turkey and one of the greatest marvels of architecture. Hagia Sophia was built as a church in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian.

Across from the Hagia Sophia is another very famous site, the Sultan Ahmet Mosque, more commonly known as the Blue Mosque because of its beautiful blue Iznik tiles. Next, we will walk around to see the remains of the Hippodrome and notable monuments including the Serpentine Column, Obelisk of Theodosius and the German Fountain of Wilhelm II.

Visit Topkapi Palace, which was the residence of the Ottoman Sultans and their families, as well as the headquarters of the Ottoman Empire, for more than 400 years. Last site to visit is Sultan Tombs where there are five tombs of Ottoman Sultans within the graveyard at Hagia Sophia.

Enjoy an authentic Turkish lunch.

Then proceed to Grand Covered Bazaar, the most attractive shopping center and the biggest "souk" in the world with nearly 4000 shops selling antiques, jewellery, gold, carpets, leatherware and souvenirs

After the tour, you will be transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

**Note:** *Alternative visits to Galata Tower called Christea Turris by the Genoese, is a medieval stone tower in the Galata/Karaköy quarter of Istanbul, Istanbul's historic underground cisterns which were built in the Byzantine era to meet the city's water needs and Hagia Irene which is also called "St. Eirene" Church. It is one of the oldest Byzantine churches in Istanbul.*

### **Option 2: Golden Horn and Bosphorus - Istanbul's Asia Full Day Tour with lunch**

After breakfast, proceed to discover Golden Horn by strolling around the ancient Byzantine walls on Pierre Loti Hill, where you'll also encounter Chora Church, Topkapi Gate and the Castle of Seven Tower. Marvel at the incredible views of the Bosphorus.

Then, board the boat and cruise around the Bosphorus Strait which connects the Sea of Marmara to the Black Sea and separates Europe and Asia, making Istanbul one of the most beautiful cities in the world and the only one built astride two continents. During the cruise, you will admire the Dolmabahçe Palace, the Beylerbeyi Palace, the Ciragan Palace and the Rumeli Fortress, ancient wooden villas, bridges and all the wonderful and unique maritime landscapes.

Enjoy an authentic Turkish lunch.

Visit the Beylerbeyi Palace, the last residence of the great Ottoman sultans. Peek into some of its 365 rooms and 22 saloons, famous for its great collection of European antiquities, furniture, and the 4.5 ton chandelier.



Step from one continent into another within 2 minutes as you pass along the Bosphorus Bridge connecting Europe and Asia. Then head up onto the Camlica Hill and take in the panoramic view over Istanbul and Bosphorus.

After the tour, you will be transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

### **Day 7 – Istanbul**

After breakfast, free time for leisure activities and shopping. Check out from the hotel and transfer to the airport for your onward journey.