

Spa – Turkey: Istanbul – Cappadocia – Luxury and Relaxation

4 Nights in Istanbul / 3 Nights in Cappadocia

*Guided cultural visits, wine tasting, unique lunar landscape of caves,
legendary locations, all in one trip!*

*Istanbul – Cappadocia – Avanos – Cavusin – Zelve – Goreme – Uchisar – Pigeon Valley –
IbrahimPasa Ortahisar – Urgup – Devrent Valley – Mustafa Pasa – Kaymakli – Derinkuyu – Ihlara
Valley – Istanbul*



Day 1: _____ – *Istanbul*

Ataturk international airport arrival and direct transfer to your hotel. The ancient **Constantinople**, also called "The New Rome", the capital of the Byzantine and the Ottoman Empires, Istanbul is the only city in the world that lies on two continents. Istanbul accommodation, 5-star hotel in the historic part of the city or the **Bosphorus/ Taksim area**, in the modern part of the city – at choice.

ISTANBUL 5 star Hotel: Crowne Plaza, or Hotel Sultanhan old city

Day 2: Istanbul, the New Rome or the Gate of the Orient

Breakfast. After breakfast, leisure time to enjoy hotel facilities or **SPA**. In the afternoon, **optionally** (~20 €), a 2 hour private boat cruise along the Bosphorus banks. During the cruise – which starts from the **Golden Horn** natural estuary – you can admire the **Galata Bridge**, the **Bosphorus strait** that connects Europe and Asia, the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara, the **Galata Tower** in the Galata district of Istanbul, the ancient **Pera**, the palaces and the traditional red wooden houses called **Yalii**, built on the Asian bank, the large bridges that connect the two continents, the **Rumeli Hisari** fortress, **Anadolu Hisari**, **Dolambasce** palace (Turkish Renaissance style), **Ciragan Saray** (a luxury restaurant today), **Cuciuksu** palace (Turkish Rococo style), **Beylerbey** palace (including classical and oriental Baroque elements), the Naval Academy, **Ortakoy** mosque, a real jewel carved in stone that became the symbol of the city, the ancient Hrisopolis, today named **Uskudar** (the very place where Constantine defeated Licinius), the mosque of princess Mihrisah and the old customs located on a small island in the middle of the strait – **Kizkulesi** or **Leandru Tower**. The visit continues with Soliman mosque or **Suleymania**, a masterpiece of the great architect Sinai, located near the University, and the Bayazid mosque located near the Great Bazaar.

Recommendations:

1. Optionally, in the evening, you can climb **Camlicea** hill, the highest point of the city, the place from where you can admire one of the most beautiful sunsets in the world and the very place from where the Bosphorus seems to be a little river. A cup of tea or coffee, served in one of the restaurants with XVIII century Ottoman pieces of furniture.

2. **Cuciuksu Palace** and museum or **Beylerbey Saray**.

3. **Dolmabahce Palace** and museum.

4. A walk around ancien **Pera** and a visit to the **Galata Tower** (with or without dinner).

5. A dinner that includes fish dishes served in **Kumkapi*** or in one of the restaurants built under the Galata bridge, while admiring the passing ships.

6. A walk around **Yildiz Park** (behind **Ciragan Saray Palace**).

Istanbul accommodation, 5-star hotel in the historic part of the city or the Bosphorus/ Taksim area, in the modern part of the city – at choice.

ISTANBUL 5-star hotel: Crowne Plaza, or hotel Sultanhan old city

Day 3: Istanbul, City of Constantine, Byzantine Capital

Breakfast. After breakfast, a walk around the city once named Constantinople, after its founder, the emperor Constantine. The day starts with a visit to the former **Saint Sophia** orthodox cathedral, turned into a mosque after the city was conquered by the Turks, and nowadays a museum. The next place to visit is the **Roman Hippodrome**, built by Septimiu Sever, the **Blue Mosque**, the hammam – **Baths of Roxelana**, the **Fountain of Ahmet III** and **Topkapi Palace Museum** that includes 4 courts. The first court (free access) where the **Saint Irina Church** is located (closed to the public), the only church that was never turned into a mosque, the second court where horse-drawn carriages, Ming and Yang porcelains, celadon pots, silver objects, miniatures, Sevre and Meissen porcelains are exhibited and where the old **Treasury**, a weapon exhibition nowadays, the **Divan** and the **Harem** are also located, then the third court that includes the **Treasury**, the **Audience Hall**, the **Library of Sultan Ahmet III** and, the last court, the sultan's private court, that includes **Baghdad** and **Revan pavilions**. After this visit you can have a coffee or you can have lunch on the palace terrace that overlooks Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara. In the afternoon, you can enjoy the hotel **SPA**. And in the evening, you can enjoy a tea or a nargile on one of the terraces near Aya Sophia church or in **Arasta Bazaar**, a spectacular place where you can attend, free of charge, a dervish show (in summer). The visits lasts for 4 hours and can be organized either in the morning or in the afternoon, depending on the **SPA** hours. Istanbul accommodation, 5-star hotel in the historic part of the city or the Bosphorus/ Taksim area, in the modern part of the city – at choice.

ISTANBUL 5-star hotel: Crowne Plaza, or hotel Sultanhan old city

*Day 4: * Istanbul, flight to the fascinating land of Cappadocia*

Breakfast. In the morning, transfer to Atatürk international airport for the domestic flight to Cappadocia. On your way to the airport you can admire the Sea of Marmara, the **Byzantine walls**, the **Golden Gate** and the Fish market or **Kumkapi**. Arrival in Cappadocia and transfer to your hotel. Cappadocia, 'the land of beautiful horses' and of lunar landscapes, was the cradle of Christianity and the place where the first monastic buildings (monasteries) were built. From here you can start to explore the fascinating valleys of Cappadocia where the **Goreme Open Air Museum** and **Tokali Church** are located; Tokali Church shelters the most beautiful representations

of Virgin Mary in the entire Byzantine iconography. The visit continues with **Goreme Valley**, **Goreme city** (with a short stop for tea in the city centre), **Uchisar** and “**Uchisar Castle**”. After visiting all the places mentioned before you can spend your time at the **SPA** until dinner. It is fair to say that this day is a busy day, but because you will visit all valleys by bus, you will not feel tired at all. After dinner, return to **Urgup**, a small town in Cappadocia, a few km away from Goreme, well-known for its shops that sell local artisan products, carpets, onyx, terracotta pots and many other souvenirs. Cappadocia, Nevsehir accommodation and dinner at a 5-star hotel.

CAPADOCIA Nevsehir 5 stars Hotel: Cave Resort and SPA

Day 5: ** *Underground cities – cities carved in rocks*

Breakfast. The visit continues today with **Pigeon Valley**, **Urgup**, **Devrent Valley**, **Avanos**, **Ceausin**, **Zelve Valley**. Short stops to take photos and buy souvenirs from local bazaars. Departure to **Kaymakly**, the 8-floored underground city (only 4 floors are accessible and open to the public). This area was a place of refuge for early Christians and then a place of refuge during the Arabic invasions. Cappadocia has underground cities, with tunnels on eight floors that cover tens of kilometres and that are linked together, Kaymakli, Derinkuyu and other tens of churches and monasteries carved into the calcareous rock. The visit continues with **Theodora Church**, **Ortahisar**, **IbrahimPasa**, **MustafaPasa** – a sleeping Greek city... Optionally and free of charge, you can indulge in wine tasting. On your way, a short stop at an onyx workshop (with tour guide) to see how onyx is processed, and a stop at a ceramic workshop. Lunch in a local restaurant, at the tourists' choice. Return to the hotel. **SPA** in the morning or in the afternoon, after the tour. **Optional:** a ride to Cappadocia valleys in a **hot air balloon**. The departure time is 5 am. The local operator takes the tourists from the hotel. Payment is made locally. Informative price: 150 € per person. For more than 4 persons, the price is: 120 € cash per person and 130 € credit card per person (limited seats!!!). Cappadocia, Nevsehir accommodation and dinner at a 5-star hotel.

CAPADOCIA Nevsehir 5-star hotel: Cave Resort and SPA

Day 6: * *Balloon ride in Cappadocia***

Breakfast. Departure from **Ürgüp** to **Ihlara Valley**, cut by a small stream, the Melendiz through the volcanic landscape, where many churches and hermits' caves exist. West of Nigde, there are about 60 churches carved into the rocks of **Ihlara Valley**. You can **visit** here **Ihlara Valley**, or **Peristrema**, a 10km long and 80m wide canyon, with steeple walls, where the Melendiz River flows. Out of the 10th and 11th century churches of the Valley, only 12 are open to the public. The Valley, once full of the agitation, prayers and incantations of the hermits, preserves nowadays a religious silence. Visiting the five churches located in the Valley takes 2-3 hours. Leisure time to visit the churches and the canyon of **Ihlara Valley**. All churches are located between **Ihlara** canyon walls, so the visit is technically a relaxing and enjoyable visit in the open. The restaurant at the end of the valley has its tables on the small islands of the Melendez river, on the terrace or inside the restaurant. Lunch break after crossing the valley. Optionally, on your way to **Ihlara** you can visit the second underground city, **Derinkuyu** (similar to **Kaymakli**). Return to the hotel. **SPA** in the morning or in the afternoon, after the tour. Cappadocia, Nevsehir accommodation and dinner at a 5-star hotel.

CAPADOCIA Nevsehir 5-star hotel: Cave Resort and SPA

Day 7: Cappadocia – flight to Istanbul – return in Constantinople

Breakfast. Transfer to: Nevsehir or Kayseri airport for the domestic flight to Istanbul (2 hours). Arrival in Istanbul, transfer to your hotel. Free time.

Recommendation: Visit accompanied by a tour guide* to the Princes' Island*.

Departure by ship from **Eminonu**, duration: half a day. There are no cars on the island as they are prohibited, but the island can be visited by horse-drawn carriages. Informative price: 50 Turkish Lira/ **carriage of four**. The island is well-known for its landscapes and its **old Greek houses**, and the atmosphere downtown seems more Greek than Turkish. The ride by ferry is really pleasant and you will be accompanied by seagulls all the way to the island. There are 7 islands called "Prince's Islands" and the ferry can stop at each of them on request. The last island is the most popular. Istanbul accommodation and dinner, 4-star hotel in the old city.

ISTANBUL 4 stars hotel: Lady Diana or Seven Hills

Day 8: Constantinople forever...

Takeaway breakfast. Early transfer to Ataturk international airport for the return flight.

We wish you dream-like holidays and wonderful trips!



8 days/ 7 nights: 3 nights in Istanbul, 3 nights in Cappadocia – domestic flight: Istanbul – Cappadocia

PRICES: starting from 1210 € – flight from _____ and airport-taxes included

Included services:

- International flight _____ - Istanbul – _____ by KLM or Lufthansa
- Domestic flight Istanbul - Cappadocia/ Cappadocia - Istanbul by Turkish Airlines
- Airport transfer - hotel – airport in Istanbul
- Airport transfer - hotel – airport in Cappadocia
- 7 accommodations in 4 and 5 star hotels according to the programme; on request, SGL or TRP
- Demi-pension (breakfast and dinner), except day 1 and day 8, due to flight hours
- Transport by 3 star bus/ van, air conditioning, street fees, parking, bridges and tunnels
- Tour companion and local tour guide in Istanbul - 2 days, and in Cappadocia - 3 days

Not included:

- Visa fee of 15 € per person is paid individually when entering the Turkish territory (customs); (for those who need to)
- Tickets for tour objectives (museums, monastic buildings, etc.)
- Medical insurance and other personal acquisitions
- Additional meals and drinks, other supplements, optional trips and personal expenses
- Tips (to Turkish service suppliers, driver, local tour guide, hotels) – not mandatory
- Optional: hot air balloon ride to Cappadocia, jeep safari, Turkish evening, dervish show

Remarks:

- Group of at least 10 persons
- In case of less than 10 persons, a difference shall be paid according to the table or the trip is cancelled
- The tour program can be changed, meaning that the order in which some cities or tour objectives are visited can be changed without affecting the general structure of the tour program
- Hotel and restaurant category is the official one in Turkey and it is approved by the corresponding Turkish Ministry

Necessary documents for your trip: passport – valid for 6 months before departure date

Application deadline:

- 3 weeks before departure date
- The tour program can be changed by the group leader depending on some special situations

Withdrawal requirements:

- According to the agency general rules, in compliance with the Tour Service Contract

The price doesn't include SPA treatment

The hotel has hamam, sauna and swimming pool

It is a Special luxury trip for SPA – relaxation and cultural visits with accomodation at 4/ 5 star hotels

Note:

- The bibliography used for the presentation included the following:
 - „Luoghi delle origini cristiane” – edizione Piemme;
 - „Biblical sites in Turkey” – Everett Blake & Anna Edmonds;
 - „Capadocia”- authors Muammer Guzelgoz (director of Goreme Museum) and Memduh Guzelgoz (local tour guide);Local brochures, internet, personal knowledge and other sources.
- Tour programme created and produced by Ramona Suci Rorvik, certified tour guide, certification no.781 in Romania.

Mentions:

According to the Turkish legislation, travel agencies that organize trips to this country shall have their tourists accompanied by a local tour guide all over Turkish territory, starting from the customs. As this means additional accommodation and guiding costs, the travel agencies choose to ignore the aforementioned law, in force for a long time. This is an accepted compromise but, in case of controls, Turkish police imposes a fine, not higher than the price for a local tour guide for the entire trip. Anyway, it is necessary to hire a local tour guide for the visits paid to the Turkish tour objectives to avoid conflicts with tour police. It is important to know that even if there are no controls but other tourists accompanied by a local tour guide, the latter can immediately call the local police, which he often does in case he notices a group of tourists without a tour guide. Thus, for an incident-free trip, local tour guides are included whenever this is highly necessary, in Istanbul and Cappadocia. Thank you for your understanding.

Important:

- Customs authorities are entitled to refuse any person they consider difficult to be trusted to enter the Turkish territory.
- The travel agency **shall not be held liable** for such situations that cannot be anticipated before departure and shall not reimburse the sums paid for the trip.
- The tourist shall undertake all risks associated with entering the Turkish territory and shall advise the travel agency on any incidents he may have been part of outside the borders (country of origin).