

Turkey – The Fascinating Cappadocia

6 Days / 5 Nights

Spirituality, Adventure, Biblical and Legendary Places

Istanbul – Yalova – Iznik – Bilecik – Eskisehir – Kutahya – Afyon – Dinar – Pamukkale – Konya – Cappadocia: Nevsehir – Avanos – Cavusin – Zelve – Goreme – Urgup – Uchisar – Pigeon Valley – IbrahimPasa – Ortahisar – MustafaPasa – Kaymakli – Derinkuyu – Ihlara Canyon - Istanbul



Day 1: Istanbul, The New Rome or The Gate of the Orient

Flight _____ – Istanbul. Arrival in Istanbul. Transfer from the airport to hotel and check-in. **Optionally** a 2 hours **cruise**, with a private boat, on the shores of Bosphorus or free time. During the cruise – which starts from the natural estuary **The Golden Horn** – you will admire: **Galata Bridge**, the **Bosphorus Straits** (which binds Europe to Asia and the Black Sea to the Marmara Sea), **Galata Tower** from Galata Quarter, the ancient Pera, the traditional palaces and houses, painted red, named **Yalii**, situated on the Asian shore, the huge bridges that bind the two continents, **Rumeli Hisari Fortress**, **Anadolu Hisari**, **Dolmabasce Palace** (Turkish Renaissance style), **Ciragan Saray** (today a luxury restaurant), **Cuciuksu Palace** (Turkish Rococo style), **Beylerbey Palace** (with Classical and Oriental Baroque elements), **The Military Navy Academy**, **Ortakoy Mosque**, a true jewel in stone that has become a symbol of the city, the old Hrisopolis today **Uskudar** (where Constantine defeated Licinius), **The Mosque** of Princess **Mihrisah**, the old customs, placed on a small island in the middle of the straits – **Kizkulesi** or **the Leander Tower**.

Accommodation in Istanbul 3+ star hotel, in the centre

Istanbul Istanbul Hotel 3+ stars BB

breakfast – open buffet – **BB**

Day 2: Istanbul, the city of Constantine, the capital of Byzantium

Breakfast. In the morning starts a walking tour of the city founded by the Emperor Constantine, the old Constantinople, also named „The New Rome”, capital of both the Byzantine and the Ottoman Empires, the only city in the world lying on two continents. You will visit: the former Orthodox Cathedral **St. Sophia**, turned into a mosque after the Turks had conquered the city, today a museum. Then **the Roman Hippodrome**, built by Septimius Sever, **The Blue Mosque**, the **Hamam-Roxelana’s Baths**, **the Fountain of Ahmet III** and the **Topkapi Palace** (entrance fee), which includes 4 courts. The first court (free access) with **the St. Irina Church** (closed to the public), the only church that has never been turned into a mosque, the second court where there are displayed carriages, Ming and Yang china, celadon vases and expensive items made of silver and ivory, miniatures, china of Sevre and of Maisein, the old Treasury, today an exhibition

of weapons, The Divan, **The Harem** (separate ticket). Then the third court with the **Thesaurus**, The Audience Hall, the Library of sultan Ahmet III and the last court, the private court of the sultan's family, with the **Bagdad** and **Revan** pavilions. Free time. You can have a meal or a cup of coffee on the palace terrace, from where the view of Bosphorus and the Marmara Sea will take your breath away. In the evening a tea and a hookah on one of the terraces near the secular cathedral of Aya Sophia, or in the **Arasta Bazaar**, a picturesque place, where you can watch for free a dervish show (in summer). The visits last for approximately 4 hours. Free time for shopping or other visits.

Suggestions: **1. Kapalicesarsi** or **The Great Bazaar**, the largest covered bazaar in the world, historical monument. **2. The Egyptian Bazaar** or **the Spice Bazaar** (the 17th century) from Eminonu (harbour). **3.** A visit in **Fanar**, the old Phanariot neighborhood, the Greek-Orthodox Patriarchy of Constantinople and the centre of Orthodoxy today. **4. Cuciuksu Palace** or **Beylerbey Saray**. **5. Dolmabahce Palace**. **6.** A walking tour in **Pera** and climbing **the Galata Tower**. **7.** A fish meal in **Kumkapi** or on the **Galata Bridge**, at one of the restaurants under the bridge, while admiring the passing ships. **8.** A walk in **the Yildiz Park** (behind the Ciragan Saray Palace). **7. Yerebatan Sarnici**, Roman underground water deposits. **9. The Camlicea Hill**, the highest hill in the city, full of antennas, from where you can admire one of the most beautiful sunsets in the world, the place from where Bosphorus seems to be a thin river. A tea or coffee in one of the restaurants, especially designed with Ottoman style furniture from the 18th century. **10. The Mosque of Soliman** or **Suleymania**, a masterpiece of the great architect Sinan, near the **University** and **The Mosque of Bayazid** near **the Great Bazaar**.

Accommodation in Istanbul 3+ star hotel, in the centre

Istanbul Hotel 3+ stars BB

breakfast – open buffet – **BB**

Day 3: Istanbul – Nevsehir – flight to the fascinating land of Cappadocia

Breakfast. In the morning, transfer to the international airport Atatürk for the internal flight to Cappadocia, course TK9084, at _____ and arrival at _____ in Nevsehir. On the way to the airport you will admire **the Marmara Sea**, **the walls of Byzantium**, **the Golden Gate** and the Fish Market or **Kumkapi**. Arrival in Cappadocia and transfer to the hotel. Cappadocia, „the land of beautiful horses” and lunar landscapes, was the cradle of Christianity and of the first monasteries. Start the exploration of the fascinating valleys of Cappadocia with **the Outdoor Museum** from **Goreme**, the **Tokali Church**, where you will see the most beautiful representations of Virgin Mary in the entire Byzantine iconography, what follows is the **Goreme Valley**, the city of **Goreme** (a short stop for tea in the centre), **Uchisar**, „**The Castle of Uchisar**”. It will be a full day from morning till evening but the visits in all the valleys are by minibus, therefore they are not very tiring. Return in **Urgup**, a small city in Cappadocia, a couple of km away from Goreme, placed in a typically local landscape of Cappadocia and well-known for its shops of local crafts, carpets, onyx, terracotta vases and many others. A dip into the hotel swimming pool. You can use the pool for free till late at night.

Dinner and accomodation in Cappadocia

Cappadocia, 4 star hotel HB

breakfast and dinner – open buffet – **HB**

Day 4: Underground cities – cities built in rocks

Breakfast – open buffet. You will continue the visits with: **the Pigeon Valley**, **Urgup**, **Devrent Valley**, **Cavusin**, **Zelve**, **Avanos**. Between visits, short stops in belvedere places to take

photos and buy souvenirs from the local bazaars. Lunch break (an hour) it is served at a restaurant in the area. **Wine tasting** for free – for those who wish – in Avanos. Departure for **Kaymakly, the underground city** on 8 levels (only 4 are accessible and open to the public). The area was a refuge for the first christians and later on a refuge during the Arabian invasions. Cappadocia has underground cities, with galleries on 8 levels, which spread over tens of km and communicate between them, Kaymakli, Derinkuyu and many other churches and monasteries were carved in the limestone rock of the region. If time allows it, we will visit **Theodora Church, Ortahisar, IbrahimPasa, MustafaPasa** – a sleeping Greek city... It will be a full day from morning till evening but the visits in all the valleys are by minibus, therefore they are not very tiring. **Optional:** visit the valleys in the **hot air balloon** in Cappadocia. Wake up and departure at 5 in the morning. A dip into the hotel swimming pool. You can use the pool for free till late at night.

Dinner and accomodation in Cappadocia

Cappadocia, 4 star hotel HB

breakfast and dinner – open buffet – **HB**

Day 5: Ihlara Canyon – a natural wonder. With the hot air balloon in Cappadocia

Breakfast – open buffet. Free time for bath and relaxation at the hotel swimming pool and, for the ones who wish, a trip (included) from **Ürgüp to Ihlara Valley**, or **Peristrema Valley**, in the past, formed due to the erosion of the Melendiz River, rich in churches and cave dwellings. West from Nigde, there are over 60 churches carved in stone and in the walls of Ihlara Valley. You will visit: **Ihlara Valley**, a 10 km in length and 80 m in width Canyon, with steep walls, through which **the Melendiz River** flows. The churches from the Valley and the entire area are from the 10th and the 11th centuries. Only 12 of them are open to the public. The valley that once vibrated of agitation, the prayers and the incantations of various monks who chose to retire here, today preserves a religious silence. The visit of the Valley and the churches lasts for at least 2-3 hours. Free time to visit the churches and the canyon, through the dramatic landscape of Ihlara Valley.

You will see: **1) Egri Tas Kilisesi**, old church dedicated to Panaghia, interesting because it is out of the typical iconographic repertoire, representing the visit of the Magi, Peter's repudiation and the agony of Jesus in Gethsemane. **2) Sumbullu Kilise** (Hyacinth Church) with a monastery above it, has frescoes that are mostly ruined. **3) Yilanli Kilise** (Snake Church) in which the final judgement is represented in strong, vivid colours. **4) Agac Alti Kilisesi** (The Church Under the Tree) probably the oldest, which has the most well preserved frescoes. **5) Kirk Dam Alti Kilise** (The Church of 40 Roofs) dedicated to St. George, who is venerated in these regions. All churches are placed between the walls of **Ihlara Canyon**, which means that the visit is actually a trip in the open air, thus very pleasant and relaxing. At the end of the valley, a rustic restaurant is waiting for you, with the tables on the small islands in the middle of the river Melendez, on the terrace or inside. Lunch break after crossing the valley.

Return to Urgup. Urgup is a small town in Cappadocia, a couple of km away from Goreme, placed in the typically local landscape of Cappadocia and well-known for its shops of local crafts, carpets, onyx, terracotta vases and many others. Optional, if time allows it, you will continue the road to **Sahinefendi, Theodora Church, Mustafapasa** (or Sinassos) a sleeping Greek city... Return to the hotel for dinner and accomodation. Optional, Turkish night or dervish show. Between

visits, on the road, throughout the days, you will be taken to different workshops: ceramics, leather, onyx. A dip into the hotel swimming pool. You can use the pool for free till late at night.

Dinner and accomodation in Cappadocia. You can use the pool for free.

Cappadocia, 4 star hotel HB breakfast and dinner – open buffet – **HB**

Day 6: Cappadocia – Nevsehir - Istanbul – _____

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport in Cappadocia for the flight home. Direct flight: Cappadocia – Istanbul – _____.

We wish you dream vacations and interesting tours!



Price: from 465 € without the flight.

Price included:

- Minibus transport in Cappadocia, for visits, depending on the number of persons.
- Taxes for the road, highways, parking lots, bridges and tunnels.
- Two accomodations in 3+ star hotels **BB** (accomodation with breakfast)
- Three accomodations in 4 star hotels **HB** (accomodation with **demi-pension, breakfast and dinner**).
- Tour companion and local tour guide during the entire trip.

Not included:

- Private cruise (only for group) on Bosphorus – aprox. 15 €/ pax.
- The local guides are paid in Turkey.
- Entrance tickets for the touristic objectives (museums, churches etc).
- Medical insurance, expenditures and other personal acquisitions.
- Additional meals and drinks; supplements and personal, local trips.
- Tips (driver, guide, hotel). They are not compulsory.

Legend: BB – accomodation with breakfast / HB accomodation with demi-pension, which means breakfast and dinner.

Note:

▪The optional trips are booked and paid for in Turkey and have nothing to do with the tourism agency organizing the tour.

Optional: a visit of the valley with the hot air balloon in Cappadocia. Informative price: 150 €. Paid at the local guide.

Remarks:

- A group of minimum 16 persons. For less than 16 persons, the price is recalculated or the trip is canceled.
- Room supplement SGL xxx €
- Children under 12 will be accommodated in a triple room with a discount of 30 € .
- 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:

- 21 days 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.

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.
- 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).

