



ISTANBUL PRIVATE TOUR

Celebrate diversity in style



Istanbul Heritage

Duration: 2 days

Available: All year around

Highlights

- Topkapi Palace and Harem
- Hagia Sophia
- Blue Mosque
- Basilica Cistern & Hippodrome
- Grand Bazaar and Spice Market
- Bosphorus Tour
- Lunches at Deraliye and Ciya

Included

- Entrance fees
- Lunches
- Treats to experience different tastes
- Transport (Ferry, tram, taxi)
- Private Mercedes Van (if necessary)
- Private profesional Toursit Gudide
- Bosphorus Tour by regular ferry



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DAY 1: OTTOMAN DAY

Your guide will be at your hotel at 09:30 am. Together you will first visit Topkapi Palace, including the Harem section.

Topkapi Palace was the house of the sultans for centuries. Every corner has interesting and exciting stories from their lives. During our visit, you will also see Harem, one of the palace's shadiest parts. Here in the Harem, you will understand the palace's actual dynamics and be amazed by the stories about the ladies' cold wars.

After spending enough time here, you will walk to Deraliye Restaurant to serve Ottoman Palace Cuisine from 15th and 16th-century palace events. After visiting Topkapi Palace and seeing how the sultans lived, now you can also experience their favorite dishes here at Deraliye Restaurant.

After lunch, you will proceed to Grand Bazaar. Maybe not for shopping, but Grand Bazaar is still an exciting place to visit. Starting from Grand Bazaar, the hill's slope, which reaches Golden Horn, was a shopping area since the Roman era. After spending some time at Grand Bazaar, you will be wandering the alleyways, rooftops of this razzle-dazzle to Spice Market.



Spice Market, for locals, it is the Egyptian Bazaar, still keeps its authenticity. It was like a pharmacy of the city during the Ottoman era where ill people used to find a cure from spices, roots of the plants, and leaves. Maybe people today go to buy only coffee and spices, but it still keeps its unique atmosphere.

From here, a short walk brings you to Golden Horn, where you will start your Bosphorus Boat Tour. During the tour, you will see Ottoman palaces, beautiful Ottoman houses mingled with modern villas, and Istanbul's nature. You will also listen to the famous people's stories once lived at these places from your guide. The boat tour will be for 1,5 hours, and then you will be assisted to your hotel by your guide.

Celebrate Diversity in Style



letsgotouring@istanbulprivatetour.com

Tel: +90 535 360 67 31



DAY 1: BYZANTINE DAY

Your guide will meet you at 09:30 am at your hotel. You will first visit the Hippodrome of Constantinople. 4 teams, represented by colors, used to do chariot races here to entertain the people and keep them busy. They used to decorate the Hippodrome with their booties from the conquered lands to show their power. You will see the remains of a couple of these booties here at the Hippodrome. Then you will continue to Blue Mosque, which is called Sultanahmet Mosque by the locals. As you can understand from its name, Sultan Ahmet was the commissioner of this mosque. The blue tiles, stained glasses, and blue paintings inside tourists gave the Blue Mosque nickname. Here you will chat about the Blue Mosque's architecture and Islam with your guide and then walk towards Hagia Sophia.

You will visit another monumental building after Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia. This building is a revolution in architecture and still amazes us when we go inside. Thanks to Justinian I, it is great luck and honor to have such a building with this great history behind it. With this single building, you can follow the architecture, politics, religion, and art from the Byzantine era to modern Turkey.

From here, you will continue to Basilica Cistern. So far, in between the city walls of Constantinople, we found around 100 cisterns from the Byzantine and Ottoman eras. This underground structure is the largest cistern in Istanbul. It has a breathtaking atmosphere with its cathedral-like ceiling, columns recycled from pre-Christian pagan temples, two stone Medusa heads propping up tall pillars, and an artificial lake full of giant carp fish.

From here, you will head to Golden Horn to catch a ferry to the Asian side of Istanbul to Khalkedon, modern Kadikoy. Here you will walk through delicatessens, fish markets, grocery stores, and taste some local street food. But not much because the lunch will be at Ciya restaurant. At Ciya, you will have a chance to try mezes and dishes from different regions of Turkey.

After lunch, you will explore Kadikoy and then take the ferry back to Istanbul's European part. Then your guide will assist you back to your hotel.

Do you have more than two days in Turkey? We can combine other destinations like Cappadocia and Ephesus with this itinerary.



Please feel free to ask me if you have any questions

My email

erkan@istanbulprivatetour.com



And my mobile

[+90 535 360 67 31](tel:+905353606731)



WhatsApp available

