



ISTANBULPRIVATE TOUR

Celebrate diversity in style



## Western Turkey Tour

**Duration: 2 weeks**  
**Available: All year around**

### Highlights

- Highlights of Istanbul
- Hot Air Ballooning in Cappadoci
- Ephesus, Aphrodisias, Pamukkale
- Mevlana Museum
- Athena Temple in Assos
- Pergamon
- Bursa and Cumalikizik

### Included

- Entrance fees
- Breakfasts and Dinners
- Accomodation (4 starts of Special catogory)
- All airport transfers
- Private Mercedes Van
- Private profesional Toursit Gudide
- Hotel tips



### **DAY 1: ISTANBUL (Arrival Day)**

You will be met at the airport by your guide and transferred to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time, you can do a short tour around the hotel today. Your guide will give you a quick tour briefing, and then with your guide, you will have a welcome dinner. (D)



### **DAY 2: ISTANBUL**

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 home of the Ottoman sultans for centuries. Therefore, there are lots of exciting stories to tell here. But, the Harem section is the shadiest part of the palace. So, we will walk through the corridors of the Harem and try to understand the role that harem ladies played during the Ottoman era. The lunch will be at Deraliye Restaurant, where they serve Ottoman palace cuisine from the 15th to 17th centuries. You can have staffed honeydew melon which was the favorite dish of Mehmet the Conqueror.

After lunch, you will walk to Grand Bazaar. Maybe it is not the best place for shopping anymore, but still, it has a different atmosphere that you should see. After spending enough time here, you will walk to Spice Market by making detours to old Ottoman inns and rooftops. At the end of this beautiful day, you will do a 1,5-hour boat tour on the Bosphorus. You will see beautiful Ottoman palaces and old Ottoman houses mingled with new waterfront villas. Once the boat tour is finished, you will be assisted back to your hotel. (B, L, D)

### **DAY 3: ISTANBUL**

Your guide will meet you at 09:30 am at your hotel. Together you will visit Hippodrome first. Hippodrome was where Green and Blue teams used to do chariot races to honor their teams and supporters. Then you will visit Sultanahmet Mosque. Once you go inside the mosque, you will understand why the foreigners call it Blue Mosque. Then you will visit Hagia Sophia. This 1500 years old monument is a revolution in architecture. You will enjoy the stories, legends and respect the mastermind behind Hagia Sophia. Then, you will continue to Golden Horn to catch a ferry to the City of the Blind People. Today it is called Kadikoy, and it is one the best neighborhood to live, in Istanbul. You will walk through grocery stores, delicatessens, and fish markets and reach another treasure in Istanbul, Ciya Restaurant. Here you can try dishes from all around Turkey, including some forgotten Ottoman recipes. After lunch, you can walk to Moda and have Uncle Yusuf's ice cream (this is the shop's name). From Kadikoy, you will catch another ferry back to your hotel. (B, L, D)



#### **DAY 4: ISTANBUL - BURSA**

After breakfast, you will drive to Bursa, the first capital of the Ottomans. Therefore, here in Bursa, you will see some of the best examples of early Ottoman architecture. You will first visit Ulu Camii (Great Mosque), which was the city's main mosque for centuries. With 20 domes and a small fountain in the middle, it has a different architecture, and with its beautiful calligraphies, it is like an art gallery. After visiting Ulu Camii, you will see the silk bazaar and the old market area, which is more authentic than Grand Bazaar. A short drive will bring you to the Green Mosque and Green Tomb from the bazaar, which has some of the best Iznik Tiles examples of the Ottoman Empire. Lunch will be Iskender Kebap, and you will have it at the restaurant where it was invented. After lunch, you will drive to Cumalikizik Village, which is on the UNESCO list today. Cumalikizik is one of the first Ottoman villages, and it offers beautiful old Ottoman houses. After exploring the village, you will drive to your hotel. (B, L, D)

#### **DAY 5: BURSA - CANAKKALE - TROY - ASSOS**

After breakfast, you will drive to Canakkale, which is right by the Dardanelles. We will explore the city and visit the Trojan horse, which was in Troy Movie. The lunch will be here at Yalova Restaurant famous for mezes and seafood. Then you will drive to legendary Troy. Maybe the site won't be as interesting as other sites you will visit during this tour but this is Troy.

Where Paris held Helen, Hector falls in front of Achilles, and Priam had to kiss the hands of his own son's murderer. The stories of your guide will make Troy unforgettable for you. Then you will drive to Assos, where you will spend the night. The dinner will be by the Aegean Sea with Lesvos Island's view. (B, L, D)



#### **DAY 6: ASSOS - PERGAMON - SELCUK**

After breakfast by the Aegean Sea, you will visit ancient Assos. Here you will watch the beauty of the Aegean Sea from the shades of Doric columns of Athena Temple, just like Aristoteles did once. Then you will continue to Pergamon.

Pergamon is accepted as the capital of the Hellenistic era. You will visit the Acropolis of these ruins and learn about the heroic history of Pergamon. After lunch, you will drive to Selcuk, where you will be staying two nights. (B, L, D)



## **DAY 7: SELCUK - EPHEBUS & AROUND**

After lunch, you will visit the House of Virgin Mary first. According to belief, Virgin Mary lived in this hut that you will visit for a while. As some believe she passed away here, some people believe she traveled towards France from here. But after the visits of Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI, this place became a pilgrimage destination. After spending enough time here, you will drive to Ephesus.

Ephesus is one of the best-preserved Roman cities. You will have a chance to walk on the original roads and sidewalks, visit the Roman Villas, go into the Celsus library, and more. Then you will drive to Sirince Village. Even though the village is built by Greeks, after the population exchange in the 1920s, the Turks moved into the village. You will have lunch here and wonder at the alleyways of the village. The next stop will be one of the wonders of the world, Artemis Temple. It was built with the donations of Alexander the Great and destroyed by Christian priests. You will also visit St. John's Basilica before heading back to the hotel.

Commissioned by the same emperor who commissioned Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Justinian I. (B, L, D)



## **DAY 8: SELCUK - APHRODISIAS - PAMUKKALE**

After breakfast, you will drive to Aphrodisias. If Ephesus was like New York during Roman Empire, then Aphrodisias was like Florence. It was like an art center and famous for its sculpting school during the Roman era. It also has one of the best-preserved stadiums. You will explore the site and continue to Pamukkale. In the afternoon you can rest at the spa of your hotel. (B, L, D)



## **DAY 9: PAMUKKALE - KONYA**

After breakfast, you will visit Hierapolis, its Necropolis, and the white terraces of the Pamukkale. Hierapolis was always famous for its thermal water, and this underground spring water turned this place into a unique place on earth with white terraces. You will have a chance to walk on this white surface and also swim in the pools. After lunch, you will drive to Konya, where you will spend the night. (B, L, D)



### **DAY 10: KONYA - CAPPADOCIA**

You will first visit the museum of Whirling Dervishes and the tomb of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi. This 13th-century sect was founded Rumi. Today there are followers of this sect from all around the world. By visiting this museum, you will learn more about this mystical sect and its philosophy. After spending enough time here, you will drive to Cappadocia. On the way, you will visit an ancient hotel for the caravans. Since you will be driving on the Silk Road, you will see many of these buildings called caravanserai. Overnight will be at Uchisar in Cappadocia. (B, L, D)

### **DAY 11: CAPPADOCIA**

After a late breakfast, you will start exploring a magical land. Through the years, this 15 million years old volcanic region was redesigned by nature and people since the Stone Age. Today you will do some panoramic view stops to see the beauty of Cappadocia from different angles. You will also visit Goreme Open Air Museum, a monastery and famous for beautiful late Byzantine frescos. Another stop will be Pasabag which is famous for triple-headed fairy chimneys. Just after Pasabag, you will also visit Zelve Open Air Museum, a village during the Byzantine and Ottoman eras until the 1950s. Here, you will be wandering in the houses and stables and will better understand the people's lifestyles. (B, L, D)

### **OPTIONAL**

**OPTIONAL:** Early in the morning, you can do hot air ballooning. Once you mention it, we can include this in the tour price, or we can make the reservation for you, and you can pay it to the ballooning company directly. The ballooning company will pick you early in the morning and drive you to the place where the balloons will take off. Here, you will have a chance to have coffee and some snacks to eat. You can also walk in between the balloons while inflating the balloons with hot air and taking beautiful photos on the ground. After the flight, the ballooning company will drive you back to the hotel.





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## DAY 12: CAPPADOCIA

After a late breakfast, you will visit Kaymakli Underground City first. This was a run-away location for the locals for centuries. So far, we have found almost 40 underground cities in Cappadocia. Kaymakli Underground City is one of the largest ones with 6000 people capacity. And it goes nine floors down. So, while you are exploring this underground city, you will be walking through tunnels where you might need to duck sometimes. There is very good lighting inside, and it is very easy to move around.

From here, you will visit the Three Beauties, Dervent, and Ortahisar viewpoint. Before the hotel, you will also see Uchisar Castel, a watchtower for the people. (B, L, D)



## DAY 13: CAPPADOCIA - ISTANBUL

Another late breakfast and you will fly back to Istanbul. We will arrange all transfers for you. (B, L, D)

## DAY 14: ISTANBUL

Tour finishes today. You will be transferred to the airport depending on your departure time. (B)

If you like to extend your stay to explore Istanbul, we will be more than happy to assist you.

Please feel free to ask me if you have any questions

My email  
[erkan@istanbulprivate.com](mailto:erkan@istanbulprivate.com)

And my mobile  
[+90 535 360 67 31](tel:+905353606731)  
WhatsApp available



## HOTELS

The hotels will be as below or similar depending on availabilities.

City	Hotel	Web-Site
Istanbul	Four Seasons Sultanahmet	<a href="https://www.fourseasons.com/istanbul/">https://www.fourseasons.com/istanbul/</a>
Bursa	Almira Hotel	<a href="https://www.almira.com.tr/">https://www.almira.com.tr/</a>
Assos Assos	Kervansaray Hotel	<a href="http://www.assoskervansaray.com/">http://www.assoskervansaray.com/</a>
Selcuk	Kalehan Hotel	<a href="https://www.kalehan.com/">https://www.kalehan.com/</a>
Pamukkale	Polat Hotel	<a href="https://polathotel.com.tr/">https://polathotel.com.tr/</a>
Konya Bera	Konya Hotel	<a href="https://www.bera.com.tr/en/BeraKonya_Home">https://www.bera.com.tr/en/BeraKonya_Home</a>
Cappadocia	Argos Hotel	<a href="https://www.argosincappadocia.com/home-page">https://www.argosincappadocia.com/home-page</a>
Istanbul	Four Seasons Sultanahmet	<a href="https://www.fourseasons.com/istanbul/">https://www.fourseasons.com/istanbul/</a>

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