



TRAVEL PASSION INC.
A PASSION FOR TRAVEL

SPLENDID TURKEY

11 Nights/ 12 Days

DAY 1 - Arrive in Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and transfer to your hotel.

DAY 2 - Morning City Tour of Istanbul

Embark on a half day morning tour* of Istanbul, the only city that straddles two continents. Your tour includes the newly restored Blue Mosque, showcasing an impressive combination of blue Iznik tiles and intricate stonework. Then, visit St. Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This great Byzantine Basilica was built in the 6th century, and was later converted to a mosque. Continue to the Hippodrome, the place where chariot races and competitive athletic events took place during the Roman period. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Perhaps, embark on the *optional* cruise along the Bosphorus, the winding straits separating Europe and Asia. View humble fishing villages and suspension bridges set against the dramatic outline of the Strait. Then to the Grand Bazaar, where bargaining is an art.

**Due to traffic congestion the order of sightseeing may change*

Optional: Half Day Istanbul Bosphorus Cruise & Grand Bazaar (PM)

DAY 3 - Spice Market, Troy, Drive to Canakkale

This morning, head to the lively Spice Market with its unforgettable aromas. Afterward, depart Istanbul and drive towards the city of Canakkale. Proceed to the classical city of Troy. Tour this 4000-year-old city and legendary center of the Trojan War, made immortal by Homer's epic poem The Iliad. Arrive and check into the hotel with free time

DAY 4 - Pergamum, Drive to Izmir

This morning, drive to Pergamum, a powerful kingdom during the ancient Hellenistic period, and visit the Asclepion, the ancient Roman spa center. Enjoy lunch in a local village before continuing to Izmir, a city believed to be the birthplace of Homer, where you will arrive in the late afternoon

DAY 5 - Full Day in Izmir

Spend a full day at leisure in Izmir. Or, join the *optional* tour to Ancient Ephesus where the Temple of Artemis, one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World," once stood. Walk along the 2000-year-old marble streets; see the Great Theater, the Odeon, the Fountain of Trajan, Temple of Hadrian, and the Library of Celsus. Visit the peaceful House of the Virgin Mary, believed to be her last residence

Optional: Full Day Ephesus & House of Virgin Mary with Lunch

DAY 6 - Necropolis & Hierapolis at Pamukkale





Today, depart in the early morning from Izmir and drive to Pamukkale en route to Antalya where you will arrive in the evening. Visit the Necropolis and the ancient city of Hierapolis "Holy City", situated atop the Pamukkale hot springs, which together constitute a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Pamukkale hot springs have served as a thermal bath since the 2nd century B.C., primarily for the ailing and elderly, many of whom have retired here

DAY 7 - Full Day in Antalya

Spend the day at leisure in Antalya. Founded by King Attalos of Pergamum as "Heaven on Earth," Antalya is an international resort city that has become a prime destination in Turkey. Join the *optional* Cruise by Wooden Boat & Antalya Archaeological Museum. Board a charming wooden boat and cruise along the beautiful coast. Take in the magnificent views of the rugged cliffs, hidden coves and golden sandy beaches. After disembarkation, visit the Antalya Archaeological Museum with its artifacts dating back over 2500 years. Take a city tour of Antalya that includes Hadrian's Gate, the Clock Tower, city walls dating back to the 2nd century

Optional: Cruise by Wooden Boat & Antalya Archaeological Museum

DAY 8 - Visit Caravanserai of Sultanhan en route to Cappadocia

Depart for Cappadocia, visiting the magnificent Caravanserai of Sultanhan en route. Time permitting, meet children at a local school and continue to Nevsehir in Cappadocia. Upon arrival in Cappadocia, check into your hotel with free time. Tonight, attend the *optional* Whirling Dervish performance; their captivating mystical ritual connects one in infinite spinning to perfect harmony

Optional: Whirling Dervishes Performance (PM)

DAY 9 - Full Day in Cappadocia

Spend the day at leisure or, join the *optional* full day Cappadocia tour*. Visit the Open-Air Museum in the Goreme Valley to see the early Christian churches and the Ozkonak Underground City. The tour ends at the village of Avanos, famous for its pottery-making tradition. Return to the hotel with free time
*An *optional* Cappadocia Balloon Ride (AM). Passengers can book both tours since the Cappadocia tour starts after the Balloon Ride.

DAY 10 - Travel to Ankara, Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk

This morning, depart for Ankara, the capital city of Turkey. Upon arrival, visit the Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk, founder and first president of the Turkish Republic. Leading up to the Mausoleum, also known as the Anitkabir, lies a vast brick courtyard and monumental avenue lined with NeoHittite stone statues and cenotaphs beneath its colonnades. The most noted cenotaphs within the complex are those of General Ismet Inonu, a close comrade of Ataturk's and his successor, and that of Ataturk himself, a large and highly decorative marble cenotaph, beneath which lies his tomb. Continue to the Anatolian Civilizations Museum, built in two Ottoman buildings located near Ankara Castle. The museum, exhibits Anatolian archaeological artifacts, as well as artifacts from the Paleolithic Age to the present

DAY 11 - Return to Istanbul





Depart for Istanbul, arriving in the early afternoon. Visit Topkapi Palace, residence of Ottoman Sultans housing the richness of 700 years. The jeweled turban crests, silken caftans and priceless Chinese porcelains of the palace bear witness to the grandeur of a bygone era. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure.

DAY 12 - Depart Turkey

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

Return Home with the beautiful memories of your tour!!

