



TURKEY: A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY - A MARCO POLO JOURNEY (2024)

Discover the rich and diverse historical landscape of Turkey, exploring the best the nation has to offer, from exquisite Istanbul to archaeological wonders that date from ancient Greece to the Ottoman Empire, enjoying privileged access and scholarly guiding throughout your journey.

Small Group Journeys, Marco Polo Small Group Journeys



Europe, Turkey



11 days from AU\$16,500 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

Discover the rich and diverse historical landscape of Turkey, exploring the best the nation has to offer, from exquisite Istanbul to archaeological wonders that date from ancient Greece to the Ottoman Empire, enjoying privileged access and scholarly guiding throughout your journey.

Journey Highlights

- Explore Topkapi Palace and the magnificent Hagia Sophia, and stroll the fabled Grand Bazaar in Istanbul
- On a day trip to ancient Ephesus, learn firsthand about the amazing archaeological discoveries made in this one-time home of Saint Paul
- Discover Turkey's rich culinary heritage, as you visit a traditional farmers market on the sparkling coast in Bodrum, savour a cooking demonstration in the countryside and stroll a spice market in Istanbul
- Privately cruise the Bosphorus, passing magnificent palaces, mansions and gardens along the shore
- Experience authentic Cappadocian culture when you join a local family for lunch in their home, set amid the stunning "fairy chimney" landscape



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Istanbul, Turkey

Arrive in Istanbul, where you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet

Day 2: Istanbul | Hagia Sophia & Private Bosphorus Cruise

Rise early for a private, before-hours opening of the Basilica Cistern, with its marble columns dating to the sixth century. Continue to the timeless Hagia Sophia, marvelling at the structure's imposing façade and towering vaulted ceilings. Then, explore the ancient Hippodrome, which once hosted chariot races, and the city walls, dating to various eras of the city's storied history. After lunch, embark on a private cruise of the Bosphorus. Later this evening, gather with your fellow guests for a welcome dinner.

Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet | Meals: BLD

Day 3: Istanbul | Wonders of Topkapi Palace

Revel in the ornately decorated ceilings and spectacular tile work of Topkapi Palace, the one-time imperial residence of Ottoman sultans, and then visit the Istanbul Archaeological Museum. Fly to Bodrum and check in to your hotel to relax before dinner.

The Marmara Bodrum | Meals: BD

Day 4: Bodrum | Oldest Shipwrecks & Exclusive Access

Stop by the ancient Theatre of Halicarnassus before visiting the Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum in the Castle of St. Peter, which houses the oldest shipwreck ever discovered. Gain A&K-exclusive private access to the research and conservation laboratories. Next, savour a Chef's Table cooking demonstration at a charming restaurant founded by a local self-taught gourmet chef who shares some of her secrets. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.

The Marmara Bodrum | Meals: BL

Day 5: Euromos | Temples Of Zeus, Apollo & Athena

Journey to Euromos to explore the ruined yet magnificent Temple of Zeus. Continue to Didyma to discover the Temple of Apollo, dating to at least 300 BC. Stop for lunch at a local seaside restaurant. Then, proceed to Priene for a walking tour at the age-old Temple of Athena before continuing to Izmir, where you enjoy dinner overlooking the sea.

Swissotel Buyuk Efes | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Ephesus | Historic Archaeological Dig

Embark on a day trip to Ephesus, where Saint Paul once lived. Explore the renowned archaeological park and museum here as well as the weekly farmers market's vibrant product stalls, before enjoying a special lunch in a nearby village. Return to Izmir for an afternoon and evening at leisure.

Swissotel Buyuk Efes | Meals: BL

Day 7: Cappadocia | Fairy Chimneys & Frescoes

Fly via Istanbul to Kayseri and explore the nearby volcanic stone "fairy chimneys." Next, on an A&K-exclusive experience, enjoy private, after-hours access to the rock-carved churches of Goreme, and visit the Dark Church, before dining at your hotel.

Argos in Cappadocia | Meals: BD

Day 8: Cappadocia | The Ancient Art Of Weaving

This morning, enjoy an optional hot air balloon excursion over Cappadocia. Afterward, visit the Goreme Weavers Association on an engaging artisan visit. Then, sit down with a local family for lunch in their home. In the afternoon, explore the fascinating underground city at Kaymakli, which dates to the eighth century BC and includes chapels, kitchens, air vents and dwellings carved out of volcanic rock. Finish with a refreshing Scenic Sundowner looking over the amazing Cappadocian landscape.

Argos in Cappadocia | Meals: BL

Day 9: Istanbul | Seat Of A Mighty Empire

Today, fly back to Istanbul. This afternoon, visit Dolmabahce Palace, once a seat of Ottoman power, and see the collection of Ottoman royal barges, a hidden gem of the city.

Shangri-La Bosphorus, Istanbul | Meals: B

Day 10: Istanbul | Ottoman Architecture & The Grand Bazaar

Ride Like a Local on a public ferry across the Bosphorus to explore Suleymaniye Mosque and the Grand Bazaar, and stroll the fragrant spice market. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner.

Shangri-La Bosphorus, Istanbul | Meals: BLD

Day 11: Depart Istanbul

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to depart.

Meals: B

Journey Details

Internal air included: Istanbul/Bodrum; Izmir/Kayseri/Istanbul

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 8:00 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 10.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Included with every Marco Polo Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations (Where Available)
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access (Where Available)
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke tailor-made journey based on this itinerary.

Map



Accommodation

Argos in Cappadocia



The Argos Hotel is set in the centre of Cappadocia, famous for its distinctive “fairy house” rock formations and ancient archaeological sites. Gaze out over enchanting churches, monasteries, mansions and the distant Cappadocia Plateau beyond.

Choose from stunning accommodation options including stone houses and mansion rooms. All are furnished with opulent antique rugs and blankets. Some even feature private cave pools. Your immediate atmosphere is steeped in the quaintness of local Turkish life. Your window views capture the open landscape in all its glory. Stroll through tunnels and gardens as you explore the hotel and discover its amenities.

Seki Restaurant showcases the culinary highlights of Cappadocia. Savour locally sourced ingredients and sample high-quality regional wines. Regular concerts are held in the serene atmosphere of Bazirhane, an ancient building with natural acoustics. Be sure to partake in hot air balloon rides, bird watching, hikes and historic adventures on this fabled landscape.

Why we like it

- Restored historic building with tunnels and caves
- Some rooms offer private cave pools
- Stunning quintessentially Cappadocian views

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- Delightful locally sourced dining
 - The wine cellar includes local and home-grown wines

Swissotel Büyük Efes



Set in expansive landscaped gardens and overlooking the Kordon on Turkey's Aegean Sea, the Swissotel Büyük Efes is Izmir's best. Accommodation is offered in 457 luxury rooms and suites. Celebrated Colombian artist, Fernando Botero's sculpture, "Man on Horse", stands at the entrance of the hotel and leads guests into a living, breathing gallery of more than 800 artistic masterpieces from around the world, from emerging Turkish artists to established names such as Rabaroma, Lorenzo Quinn, Mike Berg and Anthony Gormley. A selection of traditional Turkish and contemporary cuisine is on offer plus Pürovel Spa&Sport for health and wellbeing.

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

May 20, 2024 - May 30, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,500 pp	AU\$7,225	Included	Call for Availability

May 27, 2024 - Jun 6, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,500 pp	AU\$7,225	Included	Call for Availability

Jun 3, 2024 - Jun 13, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,500 pp	AU\$7,225	Included	Call for Availability

Aug 26, 2024 - Sep 5, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,500 pp	AU\$7,225	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 9, 2024 - Sep 19, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,500 pp	AU\$7,225	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 16, 2024 - Sep 26, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,500 pp	AU\$7,225	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 30, 2024 - Oct 10, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,500 pp	AU\$7,225	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 7, 2024 - Oct 17, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,500 pp	AU\$7,225	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 14, 2024 - Oct 24, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$16,500 pp	AU\$7,225	Included	Call for Availability

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