

TURKEY

CAPPADOCIA – EPHEBUS – PAMUKKALE – LOCAL FARM - ISTANBUL (7 NIGHTS – 8 DAYS PROGRAM)

Sample Tour

Day 1 – Istanbul - Cappadocia

The flight to Kayseri (approx. 1 Hr. 25 min.), After landing transfer to the Cappadocia area (approx. 50 min.) for the area visits.

Goreme Open Air Museum: Goreme was known, in ancient times as Korama. The first references to it are in the early 7th Acts of St.Hieron, a 3rd C. Saint who was a native of Matiano, or the modern Maccan. Goreme is an amphitheater of sample portions surrounded by steep cliffs leading to a pleasant, verdant valley, which puzzles every single visitor, by the interesting access to many of the caves. The place we refer to as the Goreme Open Air Museum is located in a small part of the whole valley and right next door to the modern village of Goreme. It is famous with its monastic complex of rock churches and chapel covered with frescoes.

Cavusin Village: One of the oldest settlements in the area, Cavusin has satiated 2 km. from Goreme, on the Goreme-Avanos road. The Church of St.John the Baptist offers a panoramic view of the village. This church and its paintings date back to the 5th century, making the oldest church in the region. It had a large courtyard which is unusual for Cappadocia, this has been eroded away, however.

Devrent Valley: Devrent is one km. from Zelve Valley. The ruins at Devrent are spread over three valleys, which also house several pointed fairy chimneys with large stems.

Avanos: A center of terra cotta work of art since 3000 BC., it is a town you will be invited to visit a traditional pottery workshop, which is possibly set deep into the hillsides. The clay, which comes from the Red River passing through the town gives life both to the land and to the local economy.



Day 2 - Cappadocia

Early morning Hot Air Balloons Flight.

Kaymakli Underground City: Kaymakli is one of the largest underground cities in Cappadocia with eight stories. It covers an area of approximately 4 km² /1.5sq mi. Visitors can see only about 10% of the city by going down a maximum of five floors. The population of Kaymakli is thought to have been about 3000.

Wine Tasting: This exclusive visit of Cappadocia discovers the oldest and still existing wine region of the world, where wine production had started nearly 4000 years ago. This tour has been designed to take our guests on a rare, tasteful journey unique to this region combining several local & historical elements with the magical view of the landscape. Learn the history of the region, its wines and traditional food.



DAY 3 - Cappadocia - Ephesus

After the breakfast start with the visit of ancient city Ephesus,

Visit of Magnificent Ephesus Ancient City;

A visit to Ephesus, one of the largest and best-preserved ancient cities in the world, is a must for those who are interested in archaeology and culture. Ephesus, once the most important commercial center of the western Anatolia, is one of the highlights of Turkey.

Visit of Virgin's Mary House; It is the place where Mary may have spent her last days. Indeed, she may have come in the area together with Saint John, who spent several years in the area to spread Christianity. After the visits transfer to the Izmir airport for the flight to Istanbul.

Visit of Sirince Village: This pretty old Orthodox village, 12 km away from Ephesus and 30 km from Kusadasi, was once called Cirkince "ugly". Indeed its habitants gave this name on purpose as they did not want to be bothered by foreigners nor to share the beauty of their village. It is also famous with its very special Olive oil, oil soap and Wines. There are many small shops to buy these products. Also before visiting the old church in village we do the short stop at local coffee shop for trying Turkish Tea and Turkish Coffe.



Day 4 - Kusadasi - Pamukkale

After the breakfast transfer to Pamukkale (approx. 3 Hr) for the daily Pamukkale Day Trip tour.

Visit Pamukkale & Hierapolis.

In Pamukkale, you will see the Cotton Cliffs, one of the natural wonders of the world formed by deposits of calcareous salts. Also visit the ancient ruins of the City of Hierapolis with its basilica, theatre and Roman Baths. After the tour, transfer to Cardak Airport for the flight to Istanbul. After arrival, transfer to the farm approx. 1 hrs. and overnight at Farm.



Day 5 / 6 - Farm Life

Day 7 - Istanbul

After the breakfast departure for the full day city tour in Istanbul.

Topkapi Palace; The former imperial residence from where the Great Ottoman Empire was ruled. Today a spectacular museum that has one of the largest collections of Chinese and Japanese porcelain.

Hippodrome; The former center of sportive and political activities of Constantinople. During the visit, you'll be able to see the Obelisk from Egypt Serpentine Column; from Delphi and the fountain of Wilhelm II. and Obelisk of Theodosius; This obelisk once graced the Karnak Great Temple of Amun (Amon) in ancient Thebes (now, Luxor). Serpent Column; is an ancient column at the Hippodrome in Sultanahmet quarter of Istanbul, Turkey. It is an ancient Greek sacrificial tripod, originally located in Delphi and later relocated to Constantinople by Constantine in 324.

Underground Cistern: Undoubtedly the most surprising monument from the Justinian era. In 532 the emperor ordered that columns (336 of them), lying unused from dilapidated temples, to be used to hold up the roof of this underground cistern with a capacity of 80,000 cubic meters. During Ottoman times it has been used by weavers for a while. Its name came from a law school that was housed in a basilica nearby. In 1980's the water has been drained, electric lights are installed and now strain of Beethoven symphonies echo against the dark walls.

Grand Bazaar; In addition to its historical importance, it's a bazaar that will tempt even the non-shoppers with its rich collection of precious handmade carpets, jewelry, leather and souvenirs.



Day 8 - Istanbul

After the breakfast departure for the full day city tour in Istanbul.

Dolmabahce Palace; The Dolmabahce Palace became the main Palace of the Empire when it was built is a conglomeration of European architectural styles. Built in the mid 19th century by Sultan Abdulmecit II, Dolmabahçe Palace has an impressive 600 meters frontage on the Bosphorus. The most important section is the vast reception saloon, with 56 columns and a huge crystal chandelier weighing 4 ½ tons and lit by 750 lights. Well-kept, beautiful gardens surround this seaside palace.

Bosphorus Cruise; The Bosphorus is a winding strait separating Europe and Asia. Along its shores is a delightfully surprising mixture of past and present, grand splendor and simple beauty. The shore is lined with modern hotels as well as antique wooden houses, palaces of marble, fortresses and small fishing villages. The best way to see the Bosphorus is to take a cruise in a deluxe yacht.

Street Food Tasting; Istanbul is an exciting place for gourmands. The city's location near the sea, the soft climate, fertile soils and rich history make for a varied and distinct culinary culture. Kadikoy, on the Asian side of Istanbul, is famous for its traditional restaurants, fresh food markets and delicatessen. Get ready for a memorable day of walking, talking and tasting. From Moda, the group walks down to the Kadikoy Marketplace, which is one of Istanbul's most colorful, vibrant and accessible shopping spots. This market offers a variety of different foods, from ripe strawberries to individually packaged pieces of lokum (Turkish delight), from big jars of pickled pines to the juicy Trabzon hurma (dates), from fresh Malatya apricots to fresh vine leaves just flown in from Central Anatolia, ready for stuffing. Many traders in this marketplace have been in business since the early 1900s. After the excursion, transfer to the airport

