

## ISTANBUL

# ISTANBUL – URFA – GÖBEKLI TEPE – GAZIANTEP – ISTANBUL (5 NIGHT – 6 DAYS PROGRAM)

## Sample Tours #3

### Day 1 - Istanbul

Arrival to Istanbul / Meet & Greet welcoming service at the airport CIP Service has been designed to offer the highest level of comfort for luxurious conveniences. You will be greeted at the plane gate upon your arrival, entrance procedures will be completed at the exclusive "Meet & Greet" CIP Service Passport Counter. Your luggage will be taken care of by an exclusively assigned porter. And you will be introduced to your Professional Guide after the customs clearance and escorted to your vehicle. Transfer to your hotel which will take approx. 1 hour.



### Day 2 - Istanbul

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

**St. Sophia;** The magnificent Byzantine Church; one of the finest architectural works in the world. It has been nominated as the 8th wonder of the world by many historians. Considered one of the world's most beautiful buildings, the Hagia Sofia, which means Church of Holy Wisdom of God, is an important surviving example of Byzantine architecture.



**Blue Mosque;** One of the largest mosques in Istanbul dating from the 17th century it is one of the principal adornments on the skyline of Istanbul. Also famous for its blue tiles and 6 minarets.



**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).

It was one of two erected at the south of the 7th Pylon of the Great Temple by Tuthmosis III. No one knows who ordered its removal from Karnak, or whether it was still standing when it was taken. 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. The serpent heads of the 8-meter high column remained until the end of the 17th century.



**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.

**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 3 - Istanbul - Sanliurfa

After the breakfast transfer to the airport for the flight to Sanliurfa ( approx. 1 Hr 45 min), Upon your arrival at Sanliurfa Airport you will be met by our driver and directly drive over to Gobekli Tepe.

**Gobekli Tepe** is the oldest man-made place of worship in the world, dating back an incredible 11,500 years. The site stunned archaeologists when it was first discovered, and its sheer expanse and craftsmanship is overwhelming, with exquisite stone carvings of people, lions, foxes, snakes and birds - some of the oldest known art in the world.



Once home to the Prophet Abraham, the ancient site of Harran is mentioned in the book of Genesis. Home of the first Islamic university in Anatolia, Harran also boasts the remains of an 8th-century mosque, a citadel and some 300-year-old beehive mud homes which enjoy a constant temperature throughout the year.

After Gobeklitepe visit drive to the historical city of Sanliurfa. After a lunch break, you will be visiting the Sanliurfa, the prophet city, or Edessa in ancient times is the most spiritual city in East Turkey. It is a major center for pilgrimage and its traditions are very much alive and well. The Sanli part of its name (meaning great or dignified) was awarded by the Turkish legislature in 1984 in recognition of the city's pivotal role in the Turkish War of Independence. Of particular note for visitors are Urfa castle (the current walls were constructed by the Abbasids in 814AD), the Pool of Sacred Fish where Abraham was thrown into the fire by Nimrod, the park of mosques, the market area and Urfa museum Gobeklitepe finds are at the display will be visited. Check into your comfortable hotel in Urfa and overnight.

#### Day 4 - Sanliurfa - Gaziantep

After breakfast in the hotel drive to the old town of Halfeti. Here change wheels for a small boat and approach Rumkale by boat through a stunning gorge. This gorgeous boat ride will take you past the enormous fort of Rumkale and some beautiful villages.

After a lunch break in Halfeti drive to Zeugma before continuing on to Gaziantep. In Gaziantep check into your hotel right in the historical market place where you will be walking distance to explore this amazing town by yourself and enjoy the food in the culinary capital of Turkey famous for its kebab's and baklava ( Turkish sweet pastry filled with nuts and served with a syrup ) Overnight in Gaziantep.



#### Day 5 - Gaziantep - Istanbul

After breakfast in the hotel visit one of the best mosaic museums of the world Zeugma Mosaic Museum where the famous Gypsy girl mosaic now on display. Zeugma was an important trading center in the Hellenistic Era, whose importance grew steadily under Roman rule. Artistic and cultural development progressed in parallel to that of its trade and commerce. When the site was excavated it turned up a number of beautiful mosaics, including the famous Gypsy girl and the mosaic of Poseidon and many more amazing mosaics are in display.

After the Mosaic Museum visits your guide will give you a city tour of Gaziantep where you will discover many interesting old streets, small museums about the daily life of Ayuntap which is now known as Gaziantep. In the late afternoon flight back to Istanbul.

#### Day 6 - Istanbul

Departure from the hotel with deluxe Mercedes Vito after arrival to the airport you will be assisted until the check-in desk.

#### Included;

Bed & Breakfast (5\* Hotel)  
chauffeur-drive (Mercedes Vito A/C)  
English speaking licensed guide  
Entrance fees  
Round-Trip Domestic Flights

#### Excluded;

Lunch  
Dinner  
Driver and Guide gratuities