

## ISTANBUL

# ISTANBUL – CAPPADOCIA – ISTANBUL (4 NIGHTS – 5 DAYS PROGRAM)

## Sample Tours #4

### 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 - Cappadocia

After the breakfast transfer to the airport for 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 Matianoi, 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.

**Esentepe Panorama:** This is the best panoramic viewpoint from which to see a complete view of Goreme Village; fairy chimneys, rock formations and cave houses.



#### Day 4 - Cappadocia

Early morning Hot Air Balloons Flight.

**Uchisar Rock Castle:** Uchisar is the name of the town and the fortress in the town. The name of the town probably derives from the name of the fortress. "Uc" is a tip, "hisar" is a fortress and Uchisar is the fortress at the tip (of the vicinity) in Turkish. This 60 mt. high (200ft) fortress was not built but carved out of a natural hill dominating the area with a breathtaking view of all the surrounding Cappadocian formations.



**Pigeon Valley:** Here you will see where the Pigeons and hear of how they were used to help the people. Some examples where to send messages and to fertilize the grapes. Also, you will see a wonderful panoramic view.

**Kaymakli Underground City:** Kaymakli is one of the largest underground cities in Cappadocia with eight stories. It covers an area of approximately 4 km<sup>2</sup> /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.

**Sinasos Village:** The small village of Mustafapasa has old houses with attractive carved facades dating back to the end of the 19th century, and a cluster of small churches, once known as Sinasos when it was a thriving Greek community before World War I, it makes an interesting trip from Urgup although is not easily accessible by public transport. Places of interest include a 19th-century Medrese, the Ayios Vasilios Church, and the Church of St. Constantine and Helena.

#### Day 5 - Cappadocia - Istanbul

Early departure to the Kayseri airport for the flight to Istanbul. After arrival to the airport in Istanbul 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