

## 8 DAYS TURKEY TOUR WITH BURSA (8D7NTURBUR)

*All year arrangement for groups*

### Itinerary

#### DAY 01: ARRIVE ISTANBUL (1, d)

Arrive at Istanbul Ataturk Airport or Sabiha Gökçen Airport.

Meet **AVOTUR**'s local guide or representative and transfer to the hotel.

Check-in and short rest.

(Please note check-in time at most hotels is 14:00 but we will do our best to arrange early check-in if necessary.)

Departure for halfday city tour with a visit to the main historical center of Istanbul, Sultanahmet with its Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman monuments.

**Lunch at a local restaurant.**

**The monuments to be visited are the Blue Mosque, Roman Hippodrome, the Hagia Sophia, the Topkapi Palace with its Treasury and Sacred Trust sections.**

Transfer from the hotel to the historical center Sultanahmet. Walking tour starting with **the Roman Hippodrome** and the monuments lined up along the spina of the original hippodrome built by Emperor Septimus Severus in 203 AD. Obelisk of Theodosius, walled column, serpentine column from Delphi and the German Fountain, gift from Kaiser

Wilhelm II to the Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamit II will be viewed.

Continue with **the Blue Mosque** built by Sultan Ahmet I in 1616, locally called Sultanahmet Mosque but known by its blue Iznik tiles and also famous for its unique 6 minarets. Modest attire recommended. Plastic bag for shoes will be provided as you will have to remove your shoes before entering the mosque.

One of the highlights of the tour is **the Hagia Sophia**. Church of the Holy Wisdom of God from the 6th century built by Justinian between 532 - 537 at the site of the previous two churches by the same name. Following the conquest of the city by the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet II, Ayasofya was

converted to a mosque and eventually after the foundation of the Republic of Turkey it has become a museum.

Continue with the **Topkapi Palace**. Until finally being abandoned to more modern palaces in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the palace served as the residence of the Ottoman Sultans as well as the center of administration for 4 centuries.

On entering through the Imperial Gate the first monument to be seen is the majestic **fountain of Sultan Ahmet III** followed by the first courtyard housing the Church of St Eirene as well as the Imperial Mint and the Archaeological Museum of Istanbul. Through the Gate of Salutation we enter the grounds of the Palace and view the various exhibitions including the imperial kitchens with its rich collection of Japanese and Chinese Ming porcelain as well as the Imperial Council (Kubbealti) and the Tower of Justice. **The Treasury**, housing such exquisite masterpieces as the Topkapi dagger and the Spoonmaker's diamond will be visited. The recently renovated **Holy Relics** section houses collection of the prophet Mohammed's and his caliphs' relics. Continuing with the Fourth Courtyard we view **the Yerevan and Baghdad pavilions** and **the Circumcision room** and enjoy the panorama of the Golden Horn and the port of Istanbul, the Suleymaniye Mosque from **the Iftar Kiosk** were he sultans broke their fast in the evenings during the fasting month of Ramadan

Return to the hotel after the tour.

**Dinner at the hotel restaurant.**

#### DAY 02: ISTANBUL - BURSA (b, 1, d)

**Breakfast at the hotel.**

Intercontinental Bosphorus suspension bridge crossing to the Asian side of Istanbul. Continue to Bursa. During the 3 hour journey we will ride a ferry across the Sea of Marmara. On arrival city tour in Bursa. Visits include the Grand Mosque (Ulucami), Bazaar, Silk Market (Kozahan), Green Mosque and Mausoleum.

**Lunch at a local restaurant.**

**Cable-car ride to the ski resort of Uludag.** Enjoy the snow and the fresh mountain air.

Leisure time for shopping.

**Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Bursa.**

#### DAY 03: BURSA – PERGAMON – IZMIR – KUSADASI (b, 1, d)

**Breakfast at the hotel.**

Continue to Bergama. Visit the Acropolis of Pergamon with its breathtaking amphitheater.

**Lunch at a local restaurant.**

Depart for Izmir, Turkey's largest export harbor and 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest city. A short panoramic tour including the seaside promenade called Kordon and the historical market area of Kemeralti dating from 1580s. Panoramic tour and continue to Kusadasi.



**Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Kusadasi.**

**DAY 04: KUSADASI – PAMUKKALE (b, l, d)**

**Breakfast at the hotel.**

Visit the ancient city of Ephesus. Highlights will be the Odeon, Celsus Library, Hadrian's Temple, Trajan's Fountain, the Agora, the Scolastica Baths, the Marble Street, the amphitheater with its 25.000 seating capacity and the Arcadian Way leading down to the port which is now silted up.

On Mount Nightingale, the House of Mary (Meryemana), a pilgrimage site where Mary is believed to have spent her last days, will be visited.

**Lunch at a local restaurant.**

Continue to Pamukkale. In **Pamukkale** visit the travertines (terraces and basins formed by the calcium rich deposits of the thermal springs) of Pamukkale (Cotton Castle) and the surrounding ancient Roman city of **Hierapolis** with its Roman baths converted to early Christian churches, the amphitheater, the Martyrium of St Philip and the extensive necropolis featuring the various architectural styles of ancient Asia Minor.

**Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Pamukkale.**



**DAY 05: PAMUKKALE – KONYA – CAPPADOCIA (b, l, d)**

**Breakfast at the hotel.**

Depart for Konya where we visit the Mevlana Museum. The 13th century sufi leader was the founder of the Mevlevi Order known for their Whirling Dervishes ceremony.

**Lunch at a local restaurant.**

Before reaching Cappadocia visit the Sultanhani caravanserai.

**Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Cappadocia.**



**DAY 06: CAPPADOCIA - ANKARA (b, l, d)**

**Breakfast at the hotel.**

Our tour of Cappadocia includes Uchisar rock formation to have a panoramic view, Göreme Valley Outdoor Museum to view the frescoes of the famous churches known by the names Apple, Barbara, Sandal and Snake churches, the Pasabagi Monks Valley, an underground city and Ürgüp fairy chimneys.

**Lunch during the tour.**

Visit the Avanos village pottery center located along the Kizilirmak (Red River, Turkey's longest river).

Afternoon spent at the various handicraft workshops of the region selling carpets and rugs, ceramics, onyx, jewelry and souvenirs.

Continue to Ankara.

**Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Ankara.**



**DAY 07: ANKARA – ISTANBUL (b, l, d)**

**Breakfast at the hotel.**

City tour in Ankara with visits to the Anatolian Civilizations Museum at the Citadel area and Anitkabir - the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (founder of the Republic of Turkey, 1881-1938).

A short drive will introduce you to the capital of Turkey with the panoramic Atakule tower, Presidential Palace at Cankaya, the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the Ministries.

**Lunch at the Bolu Mountains on the way back to Istanbul.**

On arrival transfer to the hotel.

**Dinner at the hotel restaurant.**

**DAY 08: DEPART ISTANBUL (b)**

**Breakfast at the hotel.**

Day at leisure.

(Please note check-out time at most hotels is 12:00)

*Possibility to participate in an optional Bosphorus tour.*

Pick-up from the hotel and transfer to Istanbul Ataturk Airport or Sabiha Gökçen Airport according to the departure time.

**FOLLOWING RATES INCLUDE:** Airport transfers, 7 nights accommodation on halfboard basis, excursions including all the visits and museum entrances as well as lunch, transportation and guiding (English speaking, other languages will be provided upon request), hotel tips.



#### RATES VALID BETWEEN 01 JUL – 15 NOV 2017

##### Budget package

##### 3 – 4 star hotels

For fullpaying

10 - 14 pax: 648 euros

15 - 19 pax: 538 euros

20 - 24 pax: 508 euros

25 - 29 pax: 478 euros

30 - 34 pax: 458 euros

35 - 40 pax: 448 euros

Single supplement: 205 euros

##### Superior package

##### 4 – 5 star hotels

For fullpaying

10 - 14 pax: 718 euros

15 - 19 pax: 609 euros

20 - 24 pax: 578 euros

25 - 29 pax: 548 euros

30 - 34 pax: 528 euros

35 - 40 pax: 518 euros

Single supplement: 235 euros

Children with ages between 2 - 12 sharing with 2 adults pay 65% of the relevant adult rate

#### RATES VALID BETWEEN 16 NOV 2017 – 15 MAR 2018

##### Budget package

##### 3 – 4 star hotels

For fullpaying

10 - 14 pax: 558 euros

15 - 19 pax: 448 euros

20 - 24 pax: 418 euros

25 - 29 pax: 388 euros

30 - 34 pax: 368 euros

35 - 40 pax: 358 euros

Single supplement: 150 euros

##### Superior package

##### 4 – 5 star hotels

For fullpaying

10 - 14 pax: 628 euros

15 - 19 pax: 518 euros

20 - 24 pax: 488 euros

25 - 29 pax: 458 euros

30 - 34 pax: 438 euros

35 - 40 pax: 428 euros

Single supplement: 205 euros

Children with ages between 2 - 12 sharing with 2 adults pay 65% of the relevant adult rate

**Rates are net, in euros, inclusive of all local taxes and VAT.**

#### Conditions for Turkey tour packages

21. All rates are net and in EUROS

22. Please note there are 2 principal tourist seasons in Turkey, therefore the rates are based on the low season between NOVEMBER and MARCH and the high season between APRIL and OCTOBER roughly

23. Accommodation offered at the hotel category mentioned, however you may request deluxe hotel rates or any other specific hotel choice you may consider

24. All tours and airport transfers as per itinerary and museum entrance fees are included in the rates

25. English speaking licensed guide included in the services (other languages can be provided: French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Croatian, Japanese, etc)

26. Air-conditioned tour bus or minibus depending on group size provided

27. Tips at hotels and restaurants included

28. Meals as stated with water included (other drinks not included)

29. Private cruise on the Bosphorus if mentioned in the itinerary for minimum 10 pax. For group size of less than 10 pax public boat is used

30. All local taxes and VAT are included

#### Child policy

8. Children with ages between 2 - 12 sharing with 2 adults pay 65% of the relevant adult rate

9. 2 children occupying separate room will be charged at the double room rates

10. 1 adult and 1 child sharing a room charged full double

**Optionals:**

13. **Bosphorus cruise dinner** with dinner, unlimited drinks, belly dance, folk dance and whirling dervish show on board, transfers 60 euros
14. **Whirling dervish performance at Hodjapasha Culture Center** with transfers 55 euros per person (for min 8 pax)
15. **Private motoryacht cruise on the Bosphorus (1.5 – 2 hours)** total of 415 euros as part of a city tour for not more than 10 pax
16. **Hot air balloon ride in Cappadocia** 105 euros per person
17. **Whirling dervish performance in Cappadocia** 40 euros per person including transfers
18. **Domestic flights** not included. Please let us know the dates and name of the clients so that we can check for you the best available flights and airfares.

**For your information, the rates offered here are not necessarily applicable during local holidays, Christmas, New Year's and in special periods when international congresses, fairs, sports events or any other similar activities are taking place in the city even if the price list doesn't specify such periods. Therefore we request you to check the rates for such periods in advance along with the availability.**

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