

05N 06D Turkey

Istanbul – Cappadocia – Istanbul

Day 01 Istanbul

Arrive Istanbul (IST or SAW), your transfer shall be holding up your name card at the exit, meet and greet, airport transfer, check-in and relax.



Dolmabahçe Palace

Later in the day take a **Bosphorus Cruise**, one of the best ways to discover the beauty of the city. From Bosphorus you can see the whole city from a new perspective as you travel between the two continents and become enchanted with all the amazing surroundings. See **Dolmabahçe Palace**, the largest and most impressive Palace in Turkey, used in the 1920s as the residence for the Ottoman Sultans. Extensively decorated with crystal and gold with elements of Neoclassical, Rococo and Baroque style.

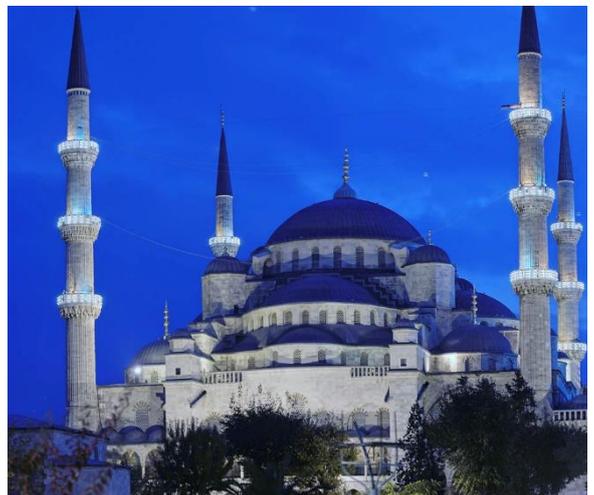
Hotel transfer, overnight Istanbul.

Day 02 Istanbul

Enjoy breakfast in the comfort of your hotel, your private guide shall meet you around 8:30 – 9:00 AM, your Private Tour begins with **Old City**. Visit **Blue Mosque**, the only mosque with six minarets, famous for over 20,000 intricate handmade tiles from the 16th century.

Travel back in time to **Byzantine Hippodrome** where you will be transported to when people watched ancient chariot races held here during the Byzantine Era.

Continue to **Hagia Sophia**, this 1,500 year old basilica was converted into a mosque during the Ottoman times and now serves as a museum.



Blue Mosque



Topkapi Palace

Visit **Topkapi Palace**, originally the primary residence for the Ottoman Sultans from the 15-19th century, uncover important holy relics from the Muslim world such as Muhammad's cloak and sword. Lunch served at a local restaurant.

Afterwards, your Private Tour takes you to **Grand Bazaar**, one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world. This incredible location houses over 60 covered streets and more than 4,000 shops which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each day!

Hotel transfer, overnight Istanbul.

Day 03 Istanbul – Cappadocia

Hotel breakfast, your guide shall pick you up around 9:00 – 9:30 AM to take you on your **Istanbul Two Continents Tour**.

Visit **Beylerbeyi Palace**, *Beylerbeyi* translates to *Lord of the Lords*. Situated in the Beylerbeyi neighborhood, used as the summer residence for the Imperial Ottoman empire, built in the mid-19th century.

Continue to **Camlica Hill** also known as Big Camlica Hill (as opposed to Little Camlica Hill nearby) offering amazing panoramic views of the southern part of Bosphorus and the mouth of Golden Horn.



Camlica Hill



Spice Market

Venture to the four-hundred-year-old shopping mall **Spice Market** to see countless stores offering numerous products, considered the most famous covered shopping complex after the Grand Bazaar.

Hotel transfer, overnight Cappadocia.

Day 04 Cappadocia

Breakfast at your hotel, pick-up around 9:30 – 10:00 AM for your **Northern Cappadocia Tour** beginning with **Goreme Panorama**. Enjoy stunning views of Goreme Village and the surrounding area. Continue to the **Open Air Museum** which resembled a vast monastic complex comprised of scores of refectory monasteries each with their own church. One of the first two *UNESCO World Heritage Sites* in Turkey, see the finest of rock-cut churches and their beautiful frescoes.



Open Air Museum

Visit **Ortahisar**, a typical village with a castle and cave food storage, and **Pasabag** known as *Fairy Chimney Valley* which has mushroom like rocks and very interesting fairy chimney forms. Continue through **Devrent** where you will see impressions of animals that look as if they are petrified in the rocks.



Kızılırmak River

Your guide will escort you along **Kızılırmak River**, *Red River*, the longest river in Turkey, where you can visit small villages famous for pottery workshops. See how pottery is made and, if you like, try your hand at making something from the artisan teachers!

On the way back to your hotel, you will be taken through a slightly different route, pass through **Love Valley** which provides an incredible view.

Hotel transfer, overnight Cappadocia.

Day 05 Cappadocia – Istanbul

We recommend a hearty breakfast prior to your guide picking you up around 9:30 – 10:00 AM as there will be much to see and do, starting with **Uchisar Castle**, the biggest fairy chimney used as a fortress by many different races. Uchisar is situated at the highest point in Cappadocia with the mighty castle standing tall at the peak, a great area for photos with the backdrop being Mount Erciyes.



Uchisar Castle



Cavusin Village

Venture to **Red Valley** on a relaxing hike (approx. 04km) and pass through **Rose Valley**, exploring rock churches on the way, these served as a haven for early Christians that fled from Roman prosecution. Your morning tour ends with **Cavusin Village** an ancient settlement with cave residences still intact.

Another option for your morning tour can be a Hot Air Balloon ride instead.

In the afternoon head to the widest of the underground cities in Cappadocia, these troglodyte cave-cities were discovered over 3,000 years ago and expanded over the centuries. Out of the 36 underground cities in Cappadocia **Kaymakli Underground City** is considered the most interesting. Built under the Citadel of Kaymakli, from where locals constructed homes around nearly one hundred tunnels, used by refugees escaping catastrophes.



Kaymakli Underground City

Your tour continues with **Pigeon Valley** which offers nice views over Uchisar Castle and still has pigeons living in their houses. Your final point of interest is **Three Beauties Valley**, famous for its stunning views and factories.

Airport transfer, take your short flight to Istanbul in the evening, meet and greet upon arrival, hotel transfer, overnight Istanbul.

Day 06 Istanbul

After breakfast, proceed on your morning **Turkish Bath Tour**. Istanbul is famous for being a place where European culture is intertwined with Asian influences which result in unique traditions only found in Turkey. Discover the concept of Turkish Baths or *hamams* where there used to be over 230 in Istanbul alone. The traditional process, which we recommend, is a four-step process in chronological order of a sauna, steam, full body wash and massage. End your trip with this memorable experience that will ensure you are well rested and relaxed for your flight in the evening.

Afternoon has been allocated as free time for you to do as you please. Evening airport transfer, depart Istanbul (IST) by QR246 at 1945hrs, arrive Hong Kong (HKG) 2340hrs.