



TURKEY & BEYOND



Dear Traveler,

For almost four decades, Magister Tours has been hosting travelers to Turkey from all over the world. When I founded the company, my dream was to create remarkable travel experiences for visitors to Turkey. By customizing each journey to suit the interests and style of the travelers, I know that individuals, families, and groups can explore this fascinating country, exceed their expectations and return home with fabulous memories to share.

We have a unique perspective on Turkey honed by our decades of focus on the region. This year, we are excited to be able to include Greece in our itineraries. Turkey and Greece are historic lands, each boasting thousands of culturally and historically significant sights and diverse peoples and regions. Our concentration on this area allows us to show you the best – whether you are interested in world-renowned wonders such as Ephesus or those just being uncovered.

There are myriad sights to explore in Greece and Turkey and many ways to combine them in a tour. We are pleased to include some of our most popular sample itineraries for you to use as a starting point when planning your trip with Magister. We have the ability and expertise to combine and customize these itineraries to make your journey special or to create a unique journey based on your input and interests. Our team of professionals is continually monitoring the services and establishments we propose to ensure that they meet our strict standards of excellence. Understanding the visitor, attention to detail and enthusiasm for sharing the riches of our country are the keys to our success.

Turkey and Greece are treasure troves of archaeological and cultural wonders. As you read through this brochure, I hope that you will find many reasons to visit them. Uncover the natural beauty found in the countries that bridge Asia with Europe and gain an understanding of the ancient and modern civilizations that flourished between the shores of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Explore the diverse heritage of our people and get to know them. I invite you to discover Turkey and Greece with Magister and enjoy an enriching and enlightening experience.

*Looking forward to seeing you,
Mustafa Coskun
President, Magister Tours, Inc.*



THE MAGISTER EXPERIENCE

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* Faith-Based Tours



Commitment to Excellence

Every detail of your journey is attended to by Magister's experienced and knowledgeable staff, who monitor your trip from the moment we receive your request until you bid farewell on the last day of your tour. Don't be surprised if you receive a call from the head office during the trip to make sure that you are enjoying your time in Turkey and Greece. Our Istanbul head office is ideally located to allow us to react quickly to any concerns.

Transport in Comfort and Luxury

Magister maintains relationships with the most reputable transportation companies in Turkey and Greece, choosing the one that best suits the itinerary and number of travelers. You can be sure that your vehicle is in top condition with an experienced and gracious driver.

Accommodations to Suit Your Lifestyle

Hotels selected for your journey are monitored by Magister for their consistent service and quality amenities. Whether you stay in charming historical establishments, boutique hotels or luxury spa resorts, you can be certain that your accommodations are chosen to meet your expectations and financial plan.

Guided by Experts

Your English-speaking guides are especially selected for their experience and knowledge of every aspect of the places you visit. And whether your passion is in archaeology or bird-watching, you can be sure that your guide is an expert in your chosen interest if we are made aware of it in advance.

Cultural Encounters

Have dinner with a local family in a rock-hewn dwelling in Cappadocia or attend a private performance of the Whirling Dervishes in Konya and learn about their spiritual beliefs. Authentic encounters make your journey special and memorable.

Great Value and Pricing

Magister's longstanding relationships and excellent reputation throughout the region benefits you with competitive pricing and unmatched value for money. All pricing is in U.S. Dollars and you may pay by credit card.

*"We wander for distraction,
but we travel for fulfillment."
~ Hilaire Belloc*

EMBRACE THE WONDERS OF TURKEY



Istanbul & the Marmara Region

Glorious **Istanbul**, former capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, fascinates travelers with its spectacular mosques and ancient monuments, its colorful history and natural beauty. Straddling the Bosphorus between the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara, the former Constantinople is the only city to span two continents.

In the heart of the old city, step into the world of the Ottoman sultans at the grand Topkapi Palace. Marvel at the iconic Hagia Sophia, first built as an Orthodox Basilica by Byzantine Emperor Justinian in 537. Witness the Islamic call to prayer at the striking Blue Mosque commissioned by Sultan Ahmet in 1609. Bargain for carpets, silks and gold in the labyrinth of shops at the Grand Bazaar and inhale the pungent scents of cumin and cloves in the Spice Market. Let the magic continue with a sunset cruise on the Bosphorus.

Travel northwest to explore **Edirne** and its lively bazaar and beautiful mosques, including the 16th-century Selimiye Camii, a masterpiece whose four minarets are reputed to be the tallest in Turkey. Or retreat south to the ancient spas and gardens of former Ottoman capital, **Bursa**.

Aegean Region

Surrounded by mountains and rich in wildlife, the region along the Aegean Sea

is a treasure trove of historic sites. On the European side of the Gallipoli Peninsula is the site of the World War I battle. Cross the Dardanelles Strait and you find yourself in the ancient city of **Troy**, where at least nine cities have been built atop the ancient settlement of Homer's *Iliad*.

Discover the legends, gods and achievements of Ancient Greece at Pergamum, which was one of the two top centers of civilization in the 2nd century. Beyond its famous library and temples dedicated to Trajan and Demeter is **Asklepion**, the world's first hospital site.

Izmir is Turkey's third-largest city and has been a shipping center since Ottoman times. Within a two-hour drive of Izmir are the ruins of 50 Ionian cities including the great Hellenistic city of **Ephesus**. Walk the white marble streets of this ancient masterpiece and be swept away by its great Celsus Library, Temple of Diana and the colossal theater where St. Paul preached. Nearby, the House of the Virgin Mary is believed to be the last home of Mary, mother of Jesus.

Moving on to the coastal resort town of **Bodrum**, you'll be charmed by its waterfront medieval Crusader castle, white-washed houses, resort marina and yachting center. Marvel at the final resting place for the Lycian kings of **Caunus**, their tombs cut into the rock cliffs overlooking the ancient port city. Or travel inland to Denizli province and take a walk through the ancient city of **Laodicea**, founded by Syrian King

Antiochus I. Nearby, discover the UNESCO World Heritage Site – **Hierapolis** and **Pamukkale**. The "Cotton Castle" bedazzles with its cascading cliffs of white limestone, layers of stalactites and natural swimming pools formed by thousands of years of calcium and mineral deposits. Romantics will want to continue on to explore the temple, theatre and fine stadium ruins of **Aphrodisias**, the ancient city dedicated to the goddess of love.

Black Sea

Along the northeast Black Sea coast of Turkey, the earliest civilizations date back more than 9,000 years near the fabled city of Trabzon. Ruled by Romans, Goths, Greeks, Persians, Assyrians, Ottomans and home to the last of the Byzantines, Trabzon grew prosperous with passing camel caravans trading silks and spices. Explore its medieval main square, centuries-old churches and ancient walled citadels. Examine the magnificent 13th-century frescoes at the Hagia Sophia church turned mosque, including "The Marriage Feast at Cana." Those interested in more recent history can visit Ataturk's summer residence in the hills, Ataturk Kosku.

Explore **Altindere National Park**, the spectacular setting of the impressive white-walled Sumela Monastery perched on a steep cliff at an altitude of almost 4000 feet. It's a must-do excursion and can easily be accomplished in a half-day from Trabzon.

This is a sampling of the destinations that will be the experience of a lifetime.

Let Magister Tours help you choose the destinations that suit your interests & style.

Central Anatolia

Turkey's official capital and second-largest city is **Ankara**. Home to the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Republic of Turkey, and several outstanding museums, Ankara is the starting point for exploring the magical region of Central Anatolia.

Step into another world when you travel through the extraordinary lunar landscape of **Cappadocia**. Volcanic eruptions and several million years of erosion have resulted in an unusual display of spectacular pillars, cones and "fairy chimneys" in varying hues and sizes. Marvel at the many painted underground churches carved into the volcanic rock in the open-air museum of Goreme Valley. The valley is estimated to have up to 5,000 man-made cave dwellings. Explore the underground cities of **Kaymakli** or **Derinkuyu**, used by early Christians to hide out from persecutors.

Travel to **Konya**, home to Sufism – the mystical sect of Islam – and the Whirling Dervishes. Here, you'll find exceptionally beautiful Seljuk buildings dating from the 12th and 13th centuries when Konya was recognized as the center for Muslim art and learning. Dominating the skyline are the blue-green dome and minarets of Mevlana Museum, where the sect's founder Mevlana was buried in 1273. The museum is filled with precious works of art and furnishings, as well as an impressive display showing how Sufis lived.

East Anatolia

This region offers a Turkey less traveled, but intriguing. At 6,000 feet high, the plateau city of **Erzurum** harbors the 5th-century citadel built by Emperor Theodosius and the brilliant turquoise tile minarets of Yakutiye Madrese, built in 1310 by Mongol rulers of Persia.

Travelers venture to **Kars** – "Snow" – to view the black basalt Armenian Church of the Apostles, built in 932, and are further amazed by neighboring **Ani**, a 10th-century Armenian city of hundreds of gates and thousands of churches. Continue to **Agri**, named for the towering **Mount Agri (Mount Ararat)**, the 16,843 foot-high mountaintop thought to be where **Noah's Ark** came to rest after the 40 days of rain.

Catch your breath on a boat tour around the immense volcanic 5,740-foot-high **Lake Van**. Disembark on **Akhdamar Island** to view the richly carved Old Testament scenes in the 10th-century Armenian

Church of the Holy Cross, designated a sacred pilgrimage site.

In the town of **Van**, be sure to visit neighboring Hosap Castle, the best preserved and most picturesque Kurdish castle in Turkey.

Southeast Anatolia

You're sure to be fascinated by the historic sites of Southeast Anatolia, thought to be the birthplace of biblical Abraham, with a rich history dating from the Stone Age. Dominating the northern Mesopotamian plain is the ancient trade city of **Diyarbakir**. Wander its narrow winding streets and note the Great Mosque – modeled after the great Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, the Mosque of the Prophet with its striped minaret, and the beautiful Palace Gate.

As its name translates, the architecture and cultural heritage found in **Sanliurfa** is truly "glorious." Reflect at the legendary Pool of Abraham, believed to have been created to extinguish the funeral pyre set by Assyrian King Nimrod to burn Abraham. Admire the 12th-century Great Mosque erected by the Seljuks.

Don't miss the drive up to the summit of Mount Nemrut to view the grandiose funeral monument to 1st-century King Antiochus. At **Nemrut Dagı**, there are over 200 colossal stone heads, exemplary of the Hittite and Oriental practice of enthroning images of gods on mountaintops. Nearby, at Göbekli Tepe, archaeologists are unearthing what may be the earliest Neolithic temple ever found, over 10,000 years old.

Antalya & the Mediterranean

Known as the Turkish Riviera or the Turquoise Coast, **Antalya** attracts international visitors to its beautiful coastline and sparkling clear Mediterranean Sea. Basking in more than 300 days of sunshine annually, visitors come to sunbathe, yacht, mountain climb and bicycle. Then, you can discover historical sites tucked among pine forests, olive and citrus groves, and palms.

Catch up on your Roman history in **Adana** at the Adana Regional Museum of Roman Ruins. Marvel at the Tas Koprı – the mighty stone bridge built by Hadrian, the Ulu Camii (Great Mosque) and the Castle of Snakes. Stroll in the footsteps of St. Paul at his birthplace in **Tarsus**. Here, Mark Antony is said to have summoned his lover, Cleopatra, to chastise her for supporting Cassius, his rival.



Learn the truth behind the legend of Santa Claus at the ruined Byzantine church containing the tomb of St. Nicholas, bishop of **Myra**. Visit the ancient theatres, stadiums and colonnades of the ruined cities of **Aspendos** and **Perge**, which reached their zenith under Alexander the Great. Follow the saga of the tragic lovers to **Side**, another of their secret meeting places. With its ancient harbor, extensive Roman baths and a museum showcasing one of Turkey's finest archaeological collections, the pretty resort town is a wonderful place to relax and unwind. Share your stories aboard your Turkish gulet while cruising along the Turquoise Coast.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TURKEY

9 days & 8 nights – Sample Itinerary

Ideally suited to the first-time traveler to Turkey, this itinerary combines one of the world's great cities with ancient Roman ruins and natural wonders. Explore historical Istanbul at the crossroads of civilizations – where West meets East. Travel to the Aegean region and uncover ancient treasures in Ephesus and Pergamum. Continue to magical Cappadocia, where the unusual fairy-like landscape will capture your imagination and create memories to last a lifetime.

Istanbul

Day 1 Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul where you are welcomed by your guide who gives you an overview of the city as you transfer to your selected hotel.

Day 2 Istanbul

Learn about Turkey's colorful history from your guide as you tour the Old City, Sultanahmet. Stand in the ancient Roman Hippodrome, once a chariot racetrack, and marvel at the 3,500-year-old Egyptian Obelisk. Visit the architectural wonder, Hagia Sophia, the famed Blue Mosque with its iconic six minarets, and the 6th-century underground Basilica Cistern. After lunch, tour the legendary Topkapi Palace overlooking the Bosphorus.



Underground Basilica Cistern

Day 3 Istanbul

See the 5th-century city walls en route to the 11th-century Chora Church whose walls and ceilings are lined with exquisite frescoes and mosaics. Visit the awe-inspiring Suleymaniye Mosque and Rustem Pasha Mosque. Taste authentic Ottoman cuisine in an historical restaurant. Then, explore the Archaeological Museum and the Museum of the Ancient Orient.

Day 4 Istanbul

Visit the magnificent 19th-century Dolmabahçe Palace and marvel at its incredible crystal chandeliers. Take a cruise on the Bosphorus and see marble palaces, 15th-century fortresses and small fishing villages along its shores. Back in the Old City, browse the famous 15th-century Grand Covered Bazaar and its over 4,000 shops.

Day 5 Izmir & Ephesus

Fly to Izmir and take a full-day excursion to ancient Ephesus. Tour the impressive Theater, Marble Street, Celsus Library and Temple of Hadrian. Visit the ruins of the Temple of Artemis – one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. After lunch, browse the Archaeological Museum, where many artifacts found in Ephesus are housed. Continue to the Basilica of St. John and the "House of the Virgin Mary" before returning to Izmir and your hotel.

Day 6 Pergamum

After breakfast, depart for the ancient Greek city of Pergamum dating back to the Hellenistic period. See the impressive theater with the steepest seating known in the ancient world, the Sanctuary of Athena, the temples of Trajan and

Dionysus, and the remains of the celebrated library. Visit the Archaeological and Ethnographical Museum. Take a panoramic tour of Izmir before flying on to Kayseri in the ancient region of Cappadocia and your selected hotel.

Day 7 Cappadocia

Be captivated by the spectacular pillars, cones and "fairy chimneys," the remarkable result of a process which began millions of years ago when volcanoes erupted in the area. Tour Goreme Valley's Open-Air Museum filled with exquisite examples of rock churches and monasteries richly decorated with colorful frescoes.

Day 8 Cappadocia

After breakfast, drive to the Kaymakli Underground City, one of the largest underground settlements in the region whose tunnels are still used today as storage areas, stables and cellars. Also visit Pashabag, the most impressive of the "fairy chimneys," wander through the charming town of Avanos, and then stop at Çavuşin where you find an impressive triple apse church. Return to your hotel and get ready to bid farewell to this fascinating part of the world.

Day 9

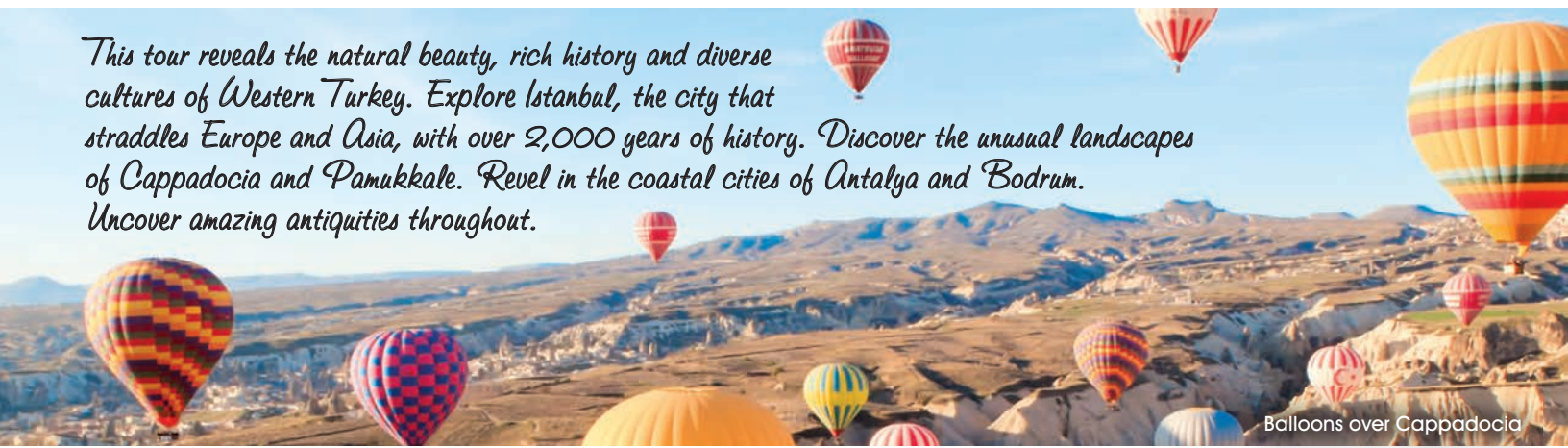
Istanbul & Homeward Bound

Early transfer to the airport for your departure to Istanbul and onward flight home or to your next destination.

JEWELS OF TURKEY

14 days & 13 nights – Sample Itinerary

This tour reveals the natural beauty, rich history and diverse cultures of Western Turkey. Explore Istanbul, the city that straddles Europe and Asia, with over 2,000 years of history. Discover the unusual landscapes of Cappadocia and Pamukkale. Revel in the coastal cities of Antalya and Bodrum. Uncover amazing antiquities throughout.



Balloons over Cappadocia

Days 1 - 3 Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul, formerly known as Byzantium and Constantinople. Meet your guide at the airport and learn about the city on the way to your hotel. Explore Istanbul's famous sights in the Old City – the ancient Roman Hippodrome, Sultan Ahmet Mosque, commonly known as the Blue Mosque for the blue tiles adorning its interior walls, the 6th-century underground Basilica Cistern and Hagia Sophia, Istanbul's architectural marvel. Visit the legendary Topkapi Palace overlooking the Bosphorus and discover its 500-year history.

Visit the impressive 19th-century Dolmabahce Palace on the edge of the Bosphorus. Then, capture a view of the palace as you cruise along the winding strait separating Europe and Asia.

Days 4 & 5 Cappadocia

Fly to Kayseri and begin exploring Cappadocia with its interesting lunar-like display of spectacular pillars, cones and "fairy chimneys" in varying hues and sizes. Early inhabitants carved homes, churches and monasteries into the soft rock, many of which you can still see today. Visit the outdoor museum of Goreme and admire exquisite examples of rock churches and monasteries richly decorated with colorful frescoes. Explore the Kaymakli Underground City, one of the largest underground settlements in the region whose tunnels are still used today as storage areas, stables and cellars.

Days 6 & 7 Antalya

Take a flight to picturesque Antalya, situated on the Mediterranean coast. The city has been inhabited since at least the 2nd century BCE when Attalos II selected it as a naval base for his powerful fleet. Discover the three

Pamphylian cities, Side, Perge and Aspendos, all rich with amazing historical remains, including a 15,000-seat theatre that is still in use today. Catch a glimpse of the rich history of the region at the Antalya Archaeological Museum.

Days 8 & 9 Kalkan & Fethiye

Drive to the historic town of Kalkan on the beautiful Lycian Coast and see its famous white-washed houses descending to the sea. Continue on to the splendid ruins of Xanthos and Letoon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Fethiye, visit the museum, which houses a rich collection of artifacts from the area. See the Hellenistic theatre and other ruins from the old city of Telmessos upon which Fethiye was built.

Days 10 & 11 Bodrum

Visit the famous yachting harbor of Gocek. In Bodrum, explore the 15th-century Crusader castle that overlooks the harbor and is home to an excellent Underwater Archaeology Museum. Stop at the site of the Mausoleum of Mausolus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Day 12

Aphrodisias & Pamukkale

Drive to Aphrodisias, named for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. Visit the well-preserved stadium, the Agora and the Theatre. Continue on to the natural spa of Pamukkale and settle into your selected hotel.

Day 13

Pamukkale & Hierapolis

Explore the sprawling ancient ruins of Hierapolis, positioned for the natural hot springs of Pamukkale. Then, relax in the gleaming white limestone pools of warm water and take in the terrific view of the valley below. Stop for a view of the "cotton castle" from below on your way to the airport and your flight to Istanbul. En route to the hotel, visit the famous 15th-century Grand Covered Bazaar for last-minute shopping.

Day 14

Istanbul & Homeward Bound

Bid farewell to the fascinating country of Turkey and board your flight home.



Pamukkale

TURKISH ESCAPE

7 days & 6 nights – Sample Itinerary

This sample itinerary is ideal for those who may have already visited Ephesus as a shore excursion and are returning to Turkey for further exploration. Showcasing archaeological, architectural and natural wonders of western Turkey, this one week tour could be combined with another destination or as a cruise extension.

Priene, Temple of Athena

Day 1 Istanbul

Your guide and driver meet you upon arrival and give you a panoramic tour of the city on the way to your hotel. This evening, be sure to capture your first view of the beautifully lit bridge that connects Europe to Asia.

Day 2 Istanbul

Take in the sights of the Old City, also called Sultanahmet. Learn about its history as you stand on the site of the Hippodrome of Constantinople and view the ancient Obelisk of Theodosius. Visit the impressive Hagia Sophia Museum, which was the largest cathedral in the world for almost 1,000 years, the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet (Blue Mosque) and the ancient Basilica Cisterns.

Day 3 Istanbul & Pamukkale

Tour the Topkapi Palace, residence to

Ottoman Sultans and now an impressive museum. Take an afternoon cruise on the Bosphorus and gain a different perspective of Istanbul on both the European and Asian shores. Take an early evening flight to Denizli and drive to Pamukkale and your hotel.

Day 4 Pamukkale & Three Ionian Cities

Explore ancient Hierapolis and Pamukkale, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1988. The unusual frosty-looking landscape of Pamukkale, meaning "cotton castle" in Turkish, was formed over thousands of years by calcium-rich thermal springs. Attracted to the natural hot springs, Hierapolis was founded as early as the 3rd century BCE, and during Roman times it was a thriving metropolis with a 20,000-seat theatre. After lunch, drive toward the Aegean coast and the Ionian cities of Didyma,

Miletus and Priene. Marvel at the ruins of the Temple of Apollo at Didyma, the third-largest in the ancient world. Situated on the shores of the Aegean, Miletus was an important center of commerce and government from about 700 BCE until 700 CE. Sit in the ancient theatre and admire views of the surrounding countryside. Priene is one of the best surviving examples of an entire ancient Greek city. Built on a seaside escarpment in the 4th-century BCE, it was Alexander the Great's model city. Explore the theatre, bouleuterion (town hall), gymnasium, stadium and the remains of its splendid Temple of Athena. Overnight in nearby Kusadasi.

Days 5 & 6 Cappadocia

Fly to Kayseri airport and drive to Cappadocia for your exploration of this natural and historic wonder. You'll be captivated by the lunar topography formed over the course of millennia. Early inhabitants carved homes, monasteries and churches into the soft rock of volcanic deposits. Get a close-up view of exquisite examples of rock churches and monasteries decorated with colorful frescoes as you walk through the Goreme Open-Air Museum. For another perspective of this fascinating area, rise early for a truly mesmerizing experience in a hot-air balloon at sunrise. Visit Kaymakli underground city where some of the tunnels are still used today as storage areas, stables and cellars.

Day 7 Homeward Bound

Depart Cappadocia and fly to Istanbul to connect with your flight home or to your next destination.



Didyma, Temple of Apollo

BLUE CRUISE ~ Sail the Turquoise Coast by Gulet

8 days & 7 nights – Two Sample Itineraries

Sail along the crystal-clear blue Aegean in a luxury gulet, outfitted with modern amenities and a crew to take care of your every need. Dine on fresh sumptuous cuisine prepared on board. Swim, snorkel and explore small villages and ancient sites along the coast. This is an ideal getaway for families and friends that will create memories to last a lifetime.

Cleopatra Island

MARMARİS TO FETHİYE

Days 1 & 2

Marmaris, Ekincik Gulf & Dalyan

Board your gulet at Marmaris Harbor and settle into your luxury cabin before you experience your first delicious dinner prepared by your private chef. See the 16th-century Marmaris Castle and the small Ottoman caravanserai before departing on your cruise. After a breakfast briefing, sail to Ekincik Gulf and take a small boat to the fishing village of Dalyan. See the ancient Rock Tombs along the way and arrive at the mud baths to relax and be rejuvenated. Return to your yacht in time for dinner.

Days 3 - 6

Manastir, Fethiye, Göcek Island, Yassica Islands & Ağa Limani

Cruise to Manastir Bay, also known as Cleopatra Bay or Sunken Bath Bay due to the beautiful underwater ruins of a bath. Arrive in Fethiye, located on the site of the ancient city of Telmessos. Visit its Hellenistic ruins or wander through the museum, rich in ancient artifacts. Spend the next two days cruising to beautiful islands. Anchor near Göcek Island and the scenic Yassica Islands and visit Bedri Rahmi Bay where the famous Turkish artist by the same name painted while on one of the first Blue Cruise tours. Anchor in Ağa Limani for dinner and overnight.

Days 7 & 8 Kumlubük, Cennet Island & Marmaris

Arrive at Kumlubük Bay for breakfast, then cruise on to Cennet Island and Marmaris. Take in the lively nightlife for which Marmaris is known and then return to your gulet for overnight. Disembark in Marmaris and bid farewell to your gulet crew as you head to your next destination.

BODRUM TO GULF OF GOKOVA

Days 1 & 2

Bodrum, Orak Island & Çökertme

Arrive in Bodrum Harbor and board your gulet in time for dinner. Bodrum, formerly known as Halicarnassus, dates back to the 12th century BCE. See the site of the Mausoleum built for King Mausolus in 350 BCE, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Crusaders used remains of the Mausoleum to build the impressive 15th-century Bodrum Castle that sits prominently on the shoreline. After your breakfast briefing, cruise to Orak Island and swim in the crystal-blue waters. Then, sail to Çökertme, a small picturesque fishing town. Take a walk on the shore after dinner.

Days 3 & 4

Seven Islands, Küfre, Uzun Liman, Tuzla, Löngöz & Karacasöğüt

Cruise to Seven Islands, the region with many small islands and coral reefs. You have time for snorkeling, swimming and relaxing on deck. Explore the natural harbor of Küfre Bay and take a walk in the forest. Anchor in Uzun Liman (Long Port) for dinner and overnight. Next day, drop anchor in Tuzla Bay and Löngöz Bay, then sail to Karacasöğüt village for dinner and overnight.

Days 5 & 6

Cleopatra Island, English Harbour, Kargili & Kisebukü

Cruise to Sedir or Cleopatra Island, site of the ancient city of Cedrae and famous for its Cleopatra Beach. The island is like an open-air museum with city walls, the Temple of Apollo, the theatre and the remains of a necropolis. The unique sand of Cleopatra Beach is said to have been brought from Egypt for Cleopatra. Cruise to English

Harbour, named for the English Navy ships that took shelter here during the Second World War. Depart early morning for Kargili Bay, then cruise to Kisebukü (Alakis,la Bükü). Explore the Byzantine ruins found here.

Days 7 & 8

Pabuç Burnu, Yaliçiftlik & Bodrum

Today, sail to Pabuç Burnu and Yaliçiftlik Bay. Tour a local village and learn about daily life on the last stop of your Blue Cruise adventure. Your gulet arrives back in Bodrum Port in time for dinner. Disembark your gulet after breakfast and bid farewell to the beautiful Gulf of Gokova as you depart for your next destination.



Marmaris Harbor

HISTORIC EASTERN TURKEY

18 days & 17 nights – Sample Itinerary



Trabzon

For travelers interested in venturing off-the-beaten-track, this journey explores the highlights of eastern Anatolia. Discover the influences of layers of civilizations and surrounding lands in the historic regions from the Black Sea coast, along the mountainous Armenian border, across the southeastern plains to the Mediterranean. For those with less time, consider ending the tour in Van on day 9.

Days 1 & 2 Istanbul

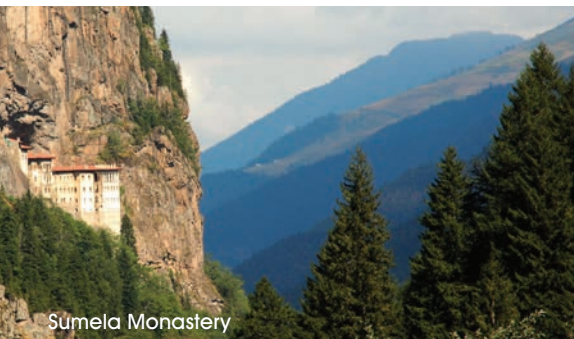
Arrive in Istanbul where you will be met and transferred to your selected hotel. Visit Topkapi Palace, built by Mehmed the Conqueror in 1453, and take in the spectacular views of Istanbul from the various terraces. Step inside the 17th-century Blue Mosque where you'll discover the reason for its name. The highlight of your time in Istanbul will, no doubt, be a visit to Hagia Sophia, the famous landmark that has graced the city for almost 1,500 years.

Days 3 & 4 Trabzon

Fly to Trabzon, an important port city on the Black Sea coast of northeastern Turkey dating from the 7th century BCE. Visit the 13th-century Byzantine church, Hagia Sophia, and see the splendid frescoes on its interior walls. Spend time at the Ottoman Gulbahar Mosque, and then proceed to Irene Tower from where you can see a beautiful view of the city and coastline.

Days 5 & 6 Erzurum

Travel by road to Macka, a beautiful town on the slopes of the Eastern Black Sea Mountain Range and gateway to Altindere National Park. Here, you can see the legendary Sumela Monastery high on the side of the cliff. It was originally founded in the year 386 by two priests who reportedly



Sumela Monastery

discovered an icon of the Virgin Mary in a cave on the mountain. It has been rebuilt several times throughout its history and attained its present form in the 13th century. Stop in Gumushane, once an important point on the ancient trade route between Trabzon and Iran, and Bayburt, a city on the old Silk Road. Arrive in Erzurum, situated at an altitude of 6,400 feet on a plateau in eastern Anatolia. Discover the long history of this city as you tour its monuments – the city walls and fortress, the unusual 12th-century Ulu Mosque, the Cifte Minareli Medrese with elaborate stone carvings and the 13th-century Mausoleum, Hatuniye Turbesi.

Day 7 Kars, Ani & Dogubayazit

Journey to Kars and discover its Russian legacy in the town's architecture. See the impressive Seljuk fortress dating from the 12th century and the nearby 10th-century Church of the Apostles before traveling on to Ani on the ancient Silk Road. The once glorious medieval Armenian capital of Ani lies mostly in ruins, but you can still see the impressive city walls and tower as well as the remains of ten of the original 1,000 churches of ancient Ani. Near Dogubayazit, Turkey's most scenic natural monument and tallest peak, Mount Agri (Mount Ararat), rises to a height of 16,843 feet. This mountain is believed to be where Noah's Ark came to rest.

Days 8 & 9 Van

As you leave Dogubayazit, observe the spectacular hilltop Ottoman-period Ishak Pasa Palace, whose construction took 99 years from 1685 to 1784. Nearby, you can see a bas-relief of an Urartian king, and a rock tomb from the 9th century BCE. Make a stop at the Muradiye Waterfalls with its peaceful tea garden and small restaurants. Arrive in Van, the ancient Urartian Capital on the eastern shore of the lake by the same name. Take a full-day tour of Van and

see the imposing 9th century BCE citadel and Urartian fortress. In the old city, the Ulu Mosque, Husrev Pasa Mosque, Kaya Celebi Mosque and the Ikiz Kumbet reflect Seljuk and Ottoman architecture. Visit the interesting Archaeological Museum in the new city, then sail to the Island of Akhdamar. Lake Van is the largest lake in Turkey and, at an altitude of 5,640 feet, it is surrounded by beautiful mountains. Many of the islands in Lake Van have monasteries and churches built on them. Akhdamar Island is the most important of these and you can see the sacred pilgrimage site of the Armenian Church of the Holy Cross, now a museum.

You may choose to end your journey in Van and fly to Istanbul for your connecting flight home. For those with more time, continue into southeastern Anatolia.

Days 10 & 11 Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Mount Nemrut & Adiyaman

Drive west to Bitlis, and see the intriguing Byzantine citadel with polygonal towers overlooking the city, the Serefhan Medrese and several other interesting mosques. Arrive in Diyarbakir in the late afternoon. Situated on a plateau, the old town is surrounded by triple black basalt walls with 16 keeps and five gates. They are among the longest in the world and are a fine example of the military architecture of the Middle Ages. On the summit of Mount Nemrut, the highest mountain in Northern Mesopotamia, sits the gigantic funerary sanctuary erected in the 1st century BCE by King Antiochus of Commagene. Adiyaman's impressive Archaeological Museum houses regional finds from the Lower Euphrates, which date from the



Old City at sunset

Neolithic and Chalcolithic ages. The city was founded in the 7th century and one can find the ruins of an Arab castle, the Abbasid citadel, restored by the Seljuks, the 14th-century Ulu Cami and the historic old bazaar.

Days 12 & 13 Sanliurfa & Harran

Visit the Ataturk Dam and learn about the Southeastern Anatolian Project en route to Sanliurfa, known in ancient times first as Ur and later as Edessa. Discover the legacy of all the civilizations that have prospered in this region. The remains of the castle with two Corinthian columns rising above the ruined walls stand atop a small crest. At the foot of the hills, the lovely Halil Rahman Mosque is built around the legendary Pool of Sacred Fish. The pond sits atop the site where Abraham was reportedly thrown into the fire by Nimrod. Step back in time as you wander through the vaulted eastern bazaar and linger in the courtyards of the old inns.

Spend a half day in ancient Harran, often identified as the residence of Abraham before he reached Canaan.

On the Harran plain, there are hundreds of mounds reflecting the rich past of the region, the most important of which is the Harran mound. Harran, well known since early times, is also a very important site on the road linking the Mediterranean to Mesopotamia. Research reveals that the site was continuously inhabited from 5000 BCE until the 13th century CE. The archaeological remains include those of the largest Islamic University, 8th-century city walls, four gates and a citadel.

Day 14 Antakya

Also known as the biblical city of Antioch, Antakya lies at the southeastern tip of Anatolia, near the Eastern Mediterranean.

Stop in Gaziantep, the principal city of the region of Hittite origin and the center of

pistachio nut cultivation in Turkey. See the Seljuk fortress, a medrese (ancient school) and an archaeological museum.

Antakya was once the capital of the Seleucid kings and was known for its wealth and luxury. In Roman times, the city continued to thrive with commerce and culture. It featured prominently in early Christianity; St. Barnabas, St. Paul and St. Peter all visited the city. The Antakya Museum houses one of the richest collections of Roman mosaics in the world. Outside the town, see the Grotto of St. Peter, the cave church that was declared a holy site by the Vatican.

Days 15 & 16 Tarsus & Adana

In the morning, depart for Tarsus, the birthplace of St. Paul. The city was invaded and destroyed several times and remaining monuments include: the Cleopatra Gate, through which Mark Antony and Cleopatra passed when they came to Tarsus to meet; an ancient church and the Ottoman Ulu Cami. Walk through narrow streets past old houses to find St. Paul's well.

Enjoy idyllic scenery on the journey on to Adana, Turkey's fourth-largest city set in the heart of Cukurova Plain. The Taskopru (Stone Bridge), built by Hadrian, spans the Seyhan River, which bisects the town. See the 16th-century Ulu Mosque, the Eski Mosque, the Hasan Aga Mosque, the 19th-century clock tower and the old covered bazaar. Visit the Archaeological Museum, which displays locally excavated Hittite and Roman remains, the charming Ethnography Museum and the Ataturk Culture Museum.

Days 17 & 18

Istanbul & Homeward Bound

Fly to Istanbul and take in an afternoon cruise on the Bosphorus before you bid farewell to the ancient and fascinating country of Turkey and head for home.



Akhdamar Island



Hagia Sophia

BIBLICAL TURKEY

11 days & 10 nights – Sample Itinerary



The prayer wall near the House of the Virgin Mary

In a land that is home to more biblical places than anywhere else on earth, it is difficult to pick the highlights for one single tour. This is a sample itinerary that can easily be customized to make your Christian heritage journey special.

Days 1 & 2 Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul, the city that bridges Europe and Asia. Meet your guide and driver and take a panoramic tour of the city on the way to your hotel. Enjoy a full day of sightseeing beginning with the impressive 6th-century Hagia Sophia Museum, the Byzantine basilica built by Emperor Justinian. Famous for its massive dome, it was the third church to occupy the site and remained the largest church in the world for almost a thousand years. Visit the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet, known as the Blue Mosque for its magnificent blue-tiled interior. Tour the beautiful and historic Chora Church, with its remarkable late Byzantine mosaics and frescoes.

Day 3

Adana, Iskenderun & Antakya

Fly to Adana and tour the Mediterranean city of Iskenderun, founded by Alexander the Great. See crusader castles perched on hilltops on the way to the biblical city of Antioch, now known as Antakya. Explore the Grotto of St. Peter, believed to have been built by the Apostle Peter as the first Christian church. It was in Antioch that the word "Christian" was coined. Visit the Museum of Roman Mosaics and continue to Adana and your hotel.

Day 4 Tarsus & Konya

Visit Tarsus, the birthplace of St. Paul, then proceed through the Boklar mountains to Konya, the center of the Mevlevi movement. Named for its founder, mystic poet-philosopher, Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, the movement is also known as Sufism or the Whirling Dervishes. Visit Mevlana's mausoleum and experience a ritualistic evening of the Whirling Dervishes.

Days 5 & 6 Yalvac & Antalya

Proceed to Pisidian Antioch, now the modern city of Yalvac, visited by St. Paul on his first missionary journey. Stop for lunch at Eğridir Lake and visit the Sagalassos excavations in Aglasun en route to Antalya. Visit Perge, an ancient Greek city and capital of Pamphylia. St. Paul stopped here and preached on his first missionary journey. Continue to Aspendos and see the well-preserved Roman theatre seating 15,000 people and still in use today. Tour the renowned Antalya Archaeological Museum, then wander through Antalya's old port and colorful streets.

Day 7 Pamukkale & Hierapolis

Drive through the beautiful countryside to Laodicia, where St. Paul preached to the resident Christians. It was also one of the Seven churches of the Book of Revelation. Continue to the spectacular ancient site of Hierapolis, which was also the home of Papias and Philip the Evangelist, whose octagonal mausoleum is located there. Hierapolis sits atop natural thermal springs, which created Pamukkale, a unique display of white petrified lime cascades. Take a dip in the warm waters and admire the view of the valley from this natural phenomena. Together, Pamukkale and Hierapolis were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988.

Day 8 Aphrodisias, Priene, Miletus, Didyma & Kusadasi

Visit Aphrodisias, the antique city named after Aphrodite, Goddess of Love. See the impressive ruins of the bouleuterion and visit the remarkable museum. Continue

to the three great Ionian cities. Priene, the favorite city of Alexander the Great, commands a magnificent view of the Meander Valley. The ancient city of Miletus is where St. Paul gave his emotional farewell message to the elders of Ephesus. Visit Didyma and see the remarkably well preserved Apollo Temple and learn about the Ancient Oracle of Apollo. Arrive in Kusadasi for overnight.

Day 9 Ephesus

In the morning, tour the ancient city of Ephesus that was dedicated to Artemis and where St. Paul had daily discussions and taught for two years. It is undoubtedly the best preserved ancient city in Asia Minor, with its majestic theatre, the Church of the Virgin Mary, and the library of Celsus. Visit the Basilica of St. John and his tomb in Selcuk and end the day at the Ephesus Archaeological Museum.

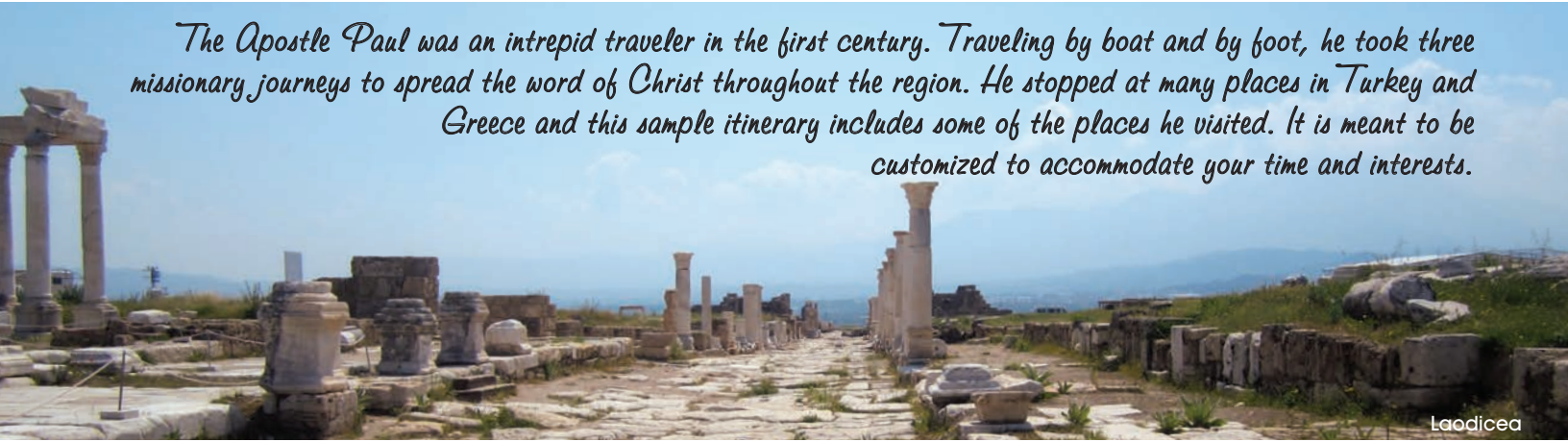
Days 10 & 11 House of the Virgin Mary, Izmir & Istanbul

After breakfast, visit the House of the Virgin Mary on Mount Nightingale and discover its interesting history including why it was declared a shrine of the Roman Catholic Church in 1896. Tour Izmir and transfer to the airport for your flight to Istanbul. Browse the famous Grand Covered Bazaar, housing more than 4,000 shops on your way to the hotel. The next day, bid farewell to Turkey as you depart for home or your next destination.

ST. PAUL'S JOURNEY THROUGH TURKEY & GREECE

15 days & 14 nights – Sample Itinerary

The Apostle Paul was an intrepid traveler in the first century. Traveling by boat and by foot, he took three missionary journeys to spread the word of Christ throughout the region. He stopped at many places in Turkey and Greece and this sample itinerary includes some of the places he visited. It is meant to be customized to accommodate your time and interests.



Days 1 - 3 Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city, uniquely connecting Europe and Asia. Meet your guide and driver and explore the famous sights in Istanbul's Old City, also called Sultanahmet. Visit the impressive Hagia Sophia Museum, the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet (Blue Mosque) and the ancient Basilica Cisterns. Tour the Topkapi Palace, residence to Ottoman Sultans and now an important museum. Take an afternoon cruise on the Bosphorus and gain a different perspective of Istanbul.

Days 4 & 5 Troas, Assos, Troy, Pergamum & Izmir

Depart Istanbul by ferry to Bandirma and drive to Troas, which St. Paul visited several times according to the Acts of the Apostles, Corinthians 2 and Timothy 2. Tour Assos and see remains of the Temple of Athena, dating back to 530 BCE. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Troy, the city that dates from 3000 BCE and was destroyed and rebuilt many times over. Continue on to Pergamum, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation, and view the famous Asklepion (healing center) and theatre. Arrive in Izmir, site of ancient Smyrna, another of the Seven Churches.

Day 6 Sardis, Philadelphia & Pamukkale

Drive to Sardis, the capital of ancient Lydia and one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. See the white marble Royal Road, the gymnasium and the impressive synagogue. Stop at the site of the Philadelphia Church on the way to Pamukkale, which means "Cotton Castle," for the natural cascading white travertines and hot springs.

Day 7 Laodicea, Aphrodisias & Kusadasi

Stroll through the ancient city of Hierapolis where Phillip was martyred and visit his octagonal martyrium. Then, dip your feet in the warm waters of Pamukkale – together they have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Drive to Laodicea, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Stroll along the columned streets of this sprawling ancient city that is still being excavated. Continue to Aphrodisias, named after Aphrodite, goddess of love. Tour the ancient site, and then browse its remarkable museum. Proceed to Kusadasi for overnight.

Days 8 & 9 Ephesus, Miletus, Samos & Patmos

Tour the ancient ruins of Ephesus, one of the largest cities in the Mediterranean during the 1st century. St. Paul visited Ephesus at least twice and taught there for two and half years. See the Celsus Library, Fountain of Trajan, Agora, Marble Road, Terrace Houses and the Theatre. Discover the antiquities in the Ephesus Museum and stop to see the Basilica of St. John and the House of the Virgin Mary. Take an excursion to the ancient Greek city of Miletus, where Paul landed on his third missionary trip. It was here that he exchanged tearful goodbyes with the Ephesian elders before sailing on to Jerusalem. Board the ferry to the Greek Island of Samos, also visited by St. Paul, and then on to Patmos.

Days 10 & 11 Patmos, Corinth & Athens

Tour Patmos and visit the Monastery of St. John and the Grotto. The Book of Revelation was written in this cave where St. John spent 18 months in exile. Board the overnight ferry to Piraeus, the port of

Athens. Visit ancient Corinth, where Paul lived and preached for almost two years. See the Roman Forum, with the Bema where St. Paul pleaded his case in 52 CE; explore the Temple of Apollo, from the 6th century BCE; wander through the remains of the Agora and admire the Pyrene Fountain. Drive back to Athens for free time and overnight.

Days 12 & 13 Delphi & Meteora

Take a scenic journey to Delphi via Thebes, Levadia and the picturesque village of Arachova, on the slopes of Mt. Parnassus. See the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios, and the Treasury of the Athenians. Drive through central Greece to Kalambaka and nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site of Meteora. Here, you'll see ageless monasteries, suspended between earth and sky, and priceless historical and religious treasures. Return to Athens via Trikala, Lamia and Thermopylae.

Days 14 & 15 Athens & Homeward Bound

Enjoy viewing the sights of Athens, including Syntagma Square, Parliament House, the Athens Academy, the National Library and Hadrian's Arch. See the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympic Games of the modern era were held in 1896. On the Acropolis, visit the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and the Parthenon. Bid farewell to the ancient lands of Turkey and Greece as you depart for home.

JEWISH HERITAGE IN ISTANBUL & IZMIR

8 days & 7 nights – Sample Itinerary

Turkey has been home to Jewish communities for at least 2,400 years. Immerse yourself in the long history of Jews in Turkey on this tour of historic synagogues in Istanbul and Western Anatolia.



Ephesus

Days 1 & 2 Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul where you are welcomed, and transfer to your hotel. Spend a full day visiting the fabulous sights in this cosmopolitan city of blended cultures. See the Topkapi Palace, former home to Ottoman Sultans, with its remarkable treasury and fascinating harem. After lunch, visit the great Byzantine basilica of Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque and the Hippodrome. End the day browsing through the Grand Covered Bazaar and be amazed at the thousands of shops.

Day 3 Istanbul

Cruise along the Bosphorus from the Sea of Marmara to the entrance of the Black Sea. Along the way, view summer palaces of the Ottoman Sultans and Viziers, modern residences and the

Fortress of Rumeli Hisar, built in 1452 by Mehmed the Conqueror. Cross the bridge to the Asian side of Istanbul to visit the synagogues of Kadiköy Hemdat Israel and Kuzguncuk Beth-Yaakov.

Day 4 Istanbul

Discover Jewish heritage in Istanbul. Ancestors of the Jewish community emigrated from Spain over 500 years ago and left a wealth of synagogues, hospitals, literature and music. Explore the synagogues in Istanbul on both sides of the Bosphorus. Begin with a visit to the Kuledibi area surrounding the Galata Tower. Tour the Neve Shalom Synagogue and learn of its short, tragic history. Nearby are the exquisite Italian and Ashkenazi Synagogues dating to the mid-18th century. Continue along the Golden Horn and see the ancient Ahrida Synagogue. Visit the modern Beth Israel Synagogue at Osmanbey in the center of modern Istanbul and explore the two districts of Ortakoy and Kuzguncuk where synagogues, mosques and churches are neighbors living in ecclesiastical harmony.

Day 5 Izmir

Fly to Izmir, Turkey's second-largest port, and transfer to your hotel. Take a panoramic tour of the Aegean city, whose history dates back over 3,500 years. Visit the synagogues of Beyt Israel, Şaar Aşamayim, Berko-Holim, Etz Hayim, and Şalom. Overnight in Izmir.

Day 6 Ephesus

Spend a full day exploring the ancient ruins of Ephesus. Walk through the marble streets lined with temples, theatres, gymnasiums and baths. Then, visit the Ephesus Archaeological Museum at Selçuk. Return to Izmir for overnight.

Days 7 & 8 Sardis & Izmir

Take an excursion to the recently excavated site of Sardis, city of Croesus and his legendary wealth. See the great gymnasium and the impressive ancient synagogue. Overnight in Izmir, and transfer to the airport for your departure flight to your next destination.



Ashkenazi Synagogue



Sardis

TURKISH DELIGHTS ~ A Culinary Extravaganza

8 days & 7 nights – Sample Itinerary

For the culinary enthusiast, Turkey is the ideal destination. In the midst of its rich history and culture stands a culinary experience that some say is the best in the world. Influenced by silk route trade, a wide range of climates, and its proximity to Europe and Asia, it is not surprising that Turkish cuisine reflects an eclectic combination of flavors and smells. Each region has its traditional specialties that have been passed down from generation to generation.



Turkish coffee

Days 1 - 3 Istanbul

Visit the highlights of the Old City – Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. Sample typical Ottoman cuisine in a local restaurant. Shop for your favorite flavor enhancers at the aromatic Spice Bazaar. Take a cooking class at one of the city's premier schools, and then sit down and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Learn how to make and drink Turkish coffee in one of Istanbul's famous coffee and tea houses.

Days 4 & 5 Sirince

Fly to Izmir and tour the famous archaeological site of Ephesus. Stop for lunch on an ecological farm and visit an Olive Oil Museum. Stay in a small village in the hills above Ephesus and experience its cooking and wine tasting in serene and beautiful surroundings.

Day 6 Three Ionian Cities

Immerse yourself in the past with a visit to the Ionian cities of Priene, Miletus and Didyma. Settled by Greek colonists at least 2,400 years ago, the ancient ruins reflect the art and architecture of the Hellenistic period. Taste the *pide* of the region before continuing to the port city of Bodrum.

Days 7 & 8 Bodrum

Enjoy a chance to make your own Turkish Delight at a local factory, and learn about and taste wines and cheeses at an ecological farm and vineyard. Visit Bodrum Castle; the landmark on the shores of the Aegean is also home to the impressive Museum of Underwater Archaeology. On your final evening here, sample the specialties of the Aegean at a local restaurant.

Consider extending your culinary experience with a cruise aboard a Gulet for a few days.

Breakfast overlooking the ocean



Beautiful evening meal



Sirince

SPECIAL INTERESTS

The diversity in landscape, history and cultures found throughout Turkey lends itself to a myriad of human interests. It is the ideal destination for clubs and groups of all kinds – and is an intriguing gathering place for families, conferences and conventions, with plenty of activities to please even the most discerning traveler.



Great Flamingoes at Sultan Marshes



Miniaturk



Kackar Mountains

Family Travel

Explore the wonders of Turkey with your family. Gain an introduction to important sights at Miniaturk on the shores of the Golden Horn in Istanbul. Ride through Cappadocia on horseback and visit its rock-hewn dwellings. Experience the fabulous blue waters of the Turquoise Coast on a private gulet and take advantage of the watersport activities on the Mediterranean. The opportunities are endless and Magister will create the perfect family vacation – ideally suited to your interests and style. Ask us for suggestions or check our website for sample itineraries.

For the Adventurous

There are many ways to put adventure into your Turkey travel experience. Trek the Lycian Way through the Teke Peninsula along the Mediterranean or follow the trail of St. Paul on the Anatolian plateau. Hike through the Kackar Mountains along the Black Sea coast where you'll pass historic Georgian churches. Or, follow a more off-the-beaten-path route in your white water raft down the Coruh River, rated as one of the top ten rivers in the world for rafting. Whether you hike, raft or cycle your way through Turkey, you'll experience unforgettable sights in the style that suits you best.

Nature Lovers' Paradise

The exceptional archaeological, historical and cultural sights in Turkey are complimented by an amazing diversity of flora and fauna. Nature lovers know that it is home to more than 10,000 species of plants, one-fifth of which are endemic. Over 450 different species of birds can be seen in Turkey, including the black vulture which is extinct in Europe.

The varied ecosystems – mountains, lakes, marshes and coastal – contribute to the abundance of birds and other wildlife. Turkey is an important stopover for birds migrating between Africa, Asia and Europe. The Sultan Marshes near Kayseri are home to over 250 indigenous or migratory birds, including some considered to be endangered species. These marshes may be the only place where flamingoes, cranes, herons and pelicans breed together.

Arts & Culture

Discover the flourishing classical arts of Turkey with professional theatre, ballet and opera or see the influence that tradition has on modern dance. Hear the inspiration of Turkish folk and classical music in the works of contemporary composers or immerse yourself in the visual arts starting with the contemporary art boom emerging in Istanbul.



TURKEY & GREECE SHORE EXCURSIONS

Taking a cruise in the Aegean, Mediterranean or Black Sea? Let Magister create the perfect shore excursions allowing you plenty of time to explore the sights in your own way.



Epidaurus Theatre

Istanbul

Formerly Constantinople and the capital of the Roman Empire, Istanbul captivates travelers with its intriguing history and stunning location on the Bosphorus Peninsula. Delve into the heart of the Old City, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and visit the domed Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and the Grand Bazaar. Or, tour the opulent Dolmabahce Palace, the beautifully frescoed Chora Church, the magnificent Suleymaniye Mosque or one of the city's impressive museums. Whatever your interests, you have much to explore in this vibrant city.

Ephesus

Walk the white marble streets of this great Hellenistic city, pausing beneath the pillars and intact facade of its grand Celsus Library. Glimpse into the ancient lifestyles of the rich and famous at the ancient terrace houses, circa 1 BCE. Learn about the city's pivotal role in early Christianity as you follow in the footsteps of St. Paul and the Virgin Mary.

Sardis

Noted in the Bible's Book of Revelation, Sardis was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia during the Persian Empire. Dedicated to the goddess Artemis, the city was known for its gargantuan Temple of Artemis. Stroll through the remaining foundation of the temple site and explore the ruins of the city, including the gymnasium-bathhouse, the acropolis and the synagogue – one of the best-preserved and largest ancient synagogues excavated.

Pergamum

The Temple of Trajan, the world's first hospital (Asklepion) and the ancient world's steepest theatre with a towering 80 rows of seats are just a sampling of the Hellenistic achievements revealed on this in-depth guided tour of Pergamum and

its acropolis. Learn about the myths, gods and heroes that made this city one of the world's top civilizations, on a par with 2nd-century Alexandria.

Three Ionian Cities: Priene, Miletos & Didyma

Spend a full day experiencing this trio of monumental Ionian cities. Marvel at the dramatic setting of Priene, engineered some 2,500 years ago to take advantage of its location beneath a sheer mountain cliff overlooking the Meander River. Travel on to Miletos, built on a hilltop near the Aegean Sea, and view its giant theatre, accommodating over 15,000 spectators in the 4th century BCE. In Didyma, examine the sprawling ruins of the Temple of Apollo and the well-preserved Bath of Faustina, built for Marcus Aurelius' wife.

Trabzon & Sumela Monastery

Situated along the Silk Road on Turkey's Black Sea coast, 9,000-year-old Trabzon developed a rich and diverse culture influenced by the Romans, Goths, Greeks, Persians, Assyrians, Ottomans and Byzantines that ruled it. Explore its medieval main square and Byzantine Church and view "The Marriage Feast at Cana," among the 13th-century frescoes at the Hagia Sophia. Beyond Trabzon, look up in wonder at the stunning Byzantine Sumela Monastery, built on a ledge carved into the mountainside.

Mykonos

Traditional white-washed houses, golden beaches and windmills spinning against postcard-perfect blue skies – you're sure to be dazzled by the beautiful island of Mykonos, renowned as a jet-setters paradise. Dip into the warm Mediterranean sea and join in the fun at a popular beach or stroll as you please among the many cafés and shops in Little Venice and the lively town. Or, linger in peaceful meditation at the Panagia

Tourliani Monastery dedicated to the Virgin Mary in 1542.

Santorini

Prepare to be awed as you spend the day on Santorini soaking up the striking views and dramatic volcanic landscape, relic of one of the largest eruptions in recorded history. Grab your camera for stunning panoramic shots as you travel along the coastline and ascend to Profitis Ilias, Santorini's highest peak, and its namesake monastery. Wander around the shops of the little village of Oia, carved into a steep slope of the volcanic caldera, and finish with a cable car ride to the pier from Fira, the island's capital.

Corinth

Marvel at the once powerful and strategically located ancient city of Corinth, the bustling trade center immortalized in St. Paul's Letters to the Corinthians. Visit the ruins of its UNESCO-recognized monuments, including the Temple of Apollo, the colonnaded marketplace, the mythological Fountain of Pirene and the Lechaion Road to the ancient port. Visit the Corinth Canal, first envisioned as a vital link between the Ionian and Aegean seas more than 2,000 years ago, but only completed in 1893.

Epidaurus & Mycenae

Venture to the northeast corner of the Peloponnese to explore the ruins of the ancient healing center of Epidaurus and the kingdom of Mycenae. Epidaurus was home to the most renowned Asklepion (healing temple) of the Classical world; its still-standing theatre is remarkable for its acoustics. Mycenae, the most powerful kingdom in Greece for over 400 years, is the site of the royal residence, citadel and Beehive Tombs of King Agamemnon, leader of the Trojan War.

CRUISE EXTENSIONS

Cruising in the Mediterranean, Aegean or Black Sea presents some wonderful opportunities to see more of Turkey. Either before or after your cruise, consider some of these short extensions to expand your experience in a land rich in history, culture and natural wonders.



The ruins of Troy

Explore Istanbul

Day 1

Begin your tour of the old city with a visit to Topkapi Palace, built by Mehmed the Conqueror between 1465 and 1478 as his imperial palace. Highlights of the museum include the Chinese Ming Dynasty porcelain collections, the treasury rooms and the famed harem. Enjoy lunch at Yeşil Ev, one of the last remaining 19th-century Istanbul mansions.

In the afternoon, tour the Hagia Sophia, undoubtedly one of the finest surviving examples of Byzantine architecture and among the world's most impressive structures. Built in the 6th century on the orders of Emperor Justinian, it served as the seat of the Orthodox Patriarch of

Constantinople for 900 years. Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror converted it into a mosque in 1453 and it was Istanbul's most important mosque for almost 500 years. It has been a museum since the 1930s. Take time to admire the richly decorated interior of gold mosaics and marble. Continue to the nearby Underground Byzantine Cistern built to supply water to the city. Afterwards, browse the sprawling 550-year-old Grand Covered Bazaar housing over 4,000 shops.

Day 2

Begin your morning at the Hippodrome, once the center of Byzantine life, which houses the impressive granite obelisk of Emperor Theodosius. Carved in Egypt in 1500 BCE, the obelisk is covered with hieroglyphs. Theodosius brought the obelisk to Constantinople in 390 CE and added military engravings of his likeness. Visit the Blue Mosque built by Sultan Ahmet I between 1609 and 1616 with the unusual feature of six minarets. Step inside, without your shoes, and view the wonders of the Blue Mosque – its enormous domes, beautiful stained glass windows and magnificent blue Iznik tiles. Visit Istanbul's largest mosque, the gorgeous Suleymaniye, and then wander through the Spice Bazaar before returning to your hotel. This evening, dine at Leander's Tower, built in the 12th century as a lighthouse and now one of Istanbul's famous landmarks. Learn about the mythical history of the tower from your guide as you make your way there and enjoy the spectacular views as the sun sets over Istanbul.

Day 3

Visit the "new" palace of the sultans on the European shore of the Bosphorus. The magnificent Dolmabahçe Palace was built in the mid-19th century by Sultan Abdülmecit I and continues to astonish visitors with its décor, including crystal-lined

staircase and five-and-a-half-ton crystal chandelier lit by 750 lights.

Take an afternoon cruise on the Bosphorus, a wonderful way to view the summer palaces of the Ottoman sultans and the 15th-century fortress of Rumeli Hisari. This evening, experience world-famous Turkish cuisine at one of the renowned restaurants on your last evening in Istanbul.

Day 4

Depart Istanbul on your Mediterranean cruise or by air to your next destination.

Gallipoli & Troy

Day 1

Depart Istanbul and travel southwest towards Canakkale, located on the southern coast of the Dardanelles Strait. Visit the Gallipoli War Graves of the First World War. Here Turkish, British and Anzac soldiers lie side by side. Cross the strait to Anatolia and spend the afternoon exploring the ancient city of Troy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The multiple layers of ruins indicate that Troy was destroyed and rebuilt many times. The first city on the site was founded in the 3rd millennium BCE. Homer's Troy was most likely between 1300 and 1190 BCE. See the remains of ancient walls, palaces, houses and the Roman Theatre. Overnight in Canakkale.

Day 2

After breakfast, take a leisurely drive back to Istanbul and depart on your Mediterranean cruise or to your next destination.



The obelisk housed in the Hippodrome

Sample Itineraries

Ruins of Aphrodisias



Discovering Cappadocia with Ankara

Day 1

Fly to Kayseri airport and meet your guide and driver for your visit of Cappadocia and Ankara. Stop at Uchisar Castle for a panoramic view of the unique lunar-like landscape. The soft volcanic rock resulting from ancient eruptions has been eroded through wind and weather to form an unusual topography of natural pillars, cones and the famous "fairy chimneys."

Depart Uchisar and continue to Göreme Valley Open-Air Museum which is the highlight of the Cappadocia region. These valley houses, rock churches and monasteries are painted with colorful early Christian religious frescoes.

Day 2

You may enjoy an early morning balloon excursion and see the Cappadocia landscape from a different perspective. Return to the hotel for breakfast. Visit the Kaymakli Underground City, dug out by early Christians as a refuge from persecutors. Savor lunch in a cave-like atmosphere, then drive to Pashabag, the most impressive of the "fairy chimneys." At Çavuşin, climb the steps to an impressive triple apse church with scenes of the bible painted on the ceiling and walls. Stop at the charming town of Avanos on the banks of the Kızılırmak River, and take a look at its handicrafts.

Day 3

Leave Cappadocia early in the morning and drive along the Salt Lake to Turkey's capital, Ankara. Visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations and see its priceless collection of prehistoric and Hittite artifacts. Experts regard this as one of the finest museums of ancient culture in the world.

After lunch at a restaurant in Ankara's old fort, proceed to the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey. Ascend the marble-paved Lion's path, flanked by elegant pavilions and decorated with bas-relief carvings and rows of statues, to view the magnificent monument.

This brings you to the end of your adventure in Central Anatolia. Depart for Ankara Esenboga International Airport for your flight to Istanbul.

Depart Istanbul on your Mediterranean cruise or by air to your next destination.

Pamukkale & Hierapolis with Aphrodisias

Day 1

Fly to Denizli in the Aegean region of Turkey. Meet your guide and drive to Pamukkale. The name means "cotton castle" in Turkish, and describes the white topography of the area. Hot calcium oxide-rich water flowing down from the Caldag mountain range over time has left, a build-up of white travertine deposits in cotton-like formations. Adjacent to Pamukkale is the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hierapolis. The hot springs there have been used as a spa since the 2nd century BCE. The area is now an impressive archaeological museum. Visit the theatre, necropolis and temple of Apollo. After your exploration of Hierapolis, return to Pamukkale and your hotel.

Day 2

Visit Aphrodisias, the ancient city named after Aphrodite, Goddess of Love. The city was built near a marble quarry and its sculptures became famous in the Roman world. See the impressive ruins of the odeon and visit the remarkable museum. Return to Istanbul via Denizli and depart on your Mediterranean cruise or by air to your next destination.



Pamukkale



Hierapolis

"Travel and change of place impart new vigor to the mind."

- Seneca

SELECTED HOTELS

From five-star historic palaces to boutique inns and family resorts, Magister Tours can arrange a wide variety of accommodations to meet your preferences throughout Turkey and Greece.



Ciragan Palace Kempinski – Istanbul

Beautifully situated on the European shore of the Bosphorus, the luxury Ciragan Palace Kempinski Hotel was once the residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Enjoy the spectacular view while dining on sumptuous cuisine in Ciragan's world-class restaurants and spend an afternoon in the hotel's amazing spa.



Four Seasons Hotel at the Bosphorus – Istanbul

On the European bank of the Bosphorus, Four Seasons gives a 19th-century palace a fresh, eclectic spirit. Alluring facilities include a chic urban spa. Fine restaurants and pools by the quayside overlook the Asian shore.



Elite World Istanbul – Istanbul

Centrally located in the heart of Istanbul's Taksim district, this elegant five-star hotel reflects Istanbul's classical beauty. Featuring 245 superb rooms with a host of amenities, it has several restaurants, a pool and an impressive spa.



Gezi Hotel Bosphorus – Istanbul

Steps away from lively Taksim square, this green-certified contemporary hotel offers guests a calming retreat in the heart of Istanbul. Unwind in the hotel's spa or enjoy exceptional views of the Bosphorus while savoring Mediterranean cuisine at its fine restaurant.



Pera Palace Hotel – Istanbul

This historic landmark hotel overlooking the Golden Horn was originally built in 1892 to host guests arriving on the Orient Express. It was recently completely restored to its former splendor and features 115 deluxe rooms and suites: The "museum hotel" accommodated Agatha Christie while she wrote "Murder on the Orient Express."



Ottoman Hotel Imperial – Istanbul

In the heart of the Old City, this historic hotel was originally built as an Ottoman school and hospital in the 19th century. You'll be treated to traditional Turkish hospitality, premium service, trend-setting restaurants and bars, and elegant guest rooms with unbeatable views.



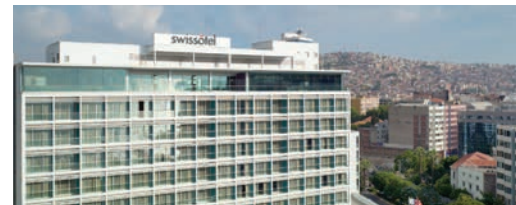
Avicenna – Istanbul

Originally a traditional 19th-century wooden house, this elegant 48-room hotel is just a few minutes' walk to the Old City and the Topkapi Palace. Savor magnificent views of the Marmara Sea and islands while dining at its two Ottoman-style restaurants.



Four Seasons Sultanahmet – Istanbul

In an ancient city bounded by the mystic waters of the Golden Horn, Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus, find 65 luxurious rooms and suites housed in a century-old neoclassical Turkish prison – all just steps from Istanbul's historic Old City.



Swissotel Izmir Grand Efes – Izmir

Situated in 37 acres of landscaped gardens, Swissotel Grand Efes is a five-star deluxe hotel in the heart of Izmir. Its 402 well-appointed guest rooms with state-of-the-art technology offer spectacular views of Izmir and the Aegean Sea. Relax in the world-class Amrita Spa and dine in elegance at Equinox Restaurant.



Korumar Hotel – Kusadasi

With beautiful views of the sea and close proximity to Ephesus, this 272-room resort combines outstanding service and facilities – including a gorgeous pool and spa and a children's Mini Club – and offers a host of watersports activities for an unforgettable vacation.



Lykia Lodge – Cappadocia

Centrally located in Nevşehir, Lykia Lodge draws inspiration from the landscape in its unique architectural design. After a day of sightseeing, relax with a glass of wine from the vineyards of Central Anatolia and enjoy traditional dishes of the region in the hotel's restaurant. In addition to its 146 well-appointed rooms, the hotel features a pool and tennis courts.



Yusuf Yigitoglu Konagi Cave Hotel – Cappadocia

Enjoy enchanting scenery from the terraces of this unique cave hotel that was once a 19th-century residence carved into the rock. Each of the 14 nicely appointed guest rooms at the Yusuf Yigitoglu Konagi Cave Hotel is completely different in décor and design.

Here is a sampling of our recommended hotels, each promising to host you with warm hospitality and style.



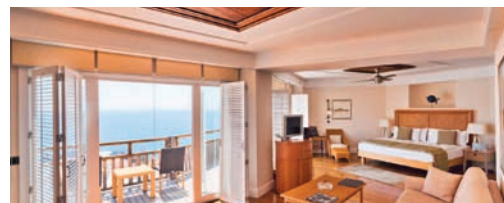
Cappadocia Cave Resort – Cappadocia

Retreat into another world in this luxurious resort and spa nestled among the rock-carved dwellings and lunar landscape of Cappadocia near Göreme. Experience the world's first cave spa where you can indulge in a myriad of therapies and a traditional Turkish bath.



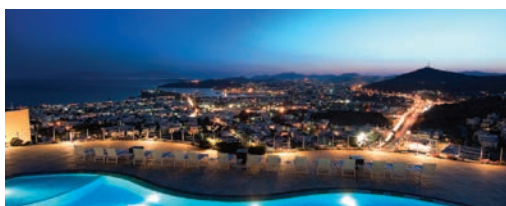
Casa Dell Arte – Bodrum

Turkey's first contemporary boutique art hotel is a stylish seafront getaway in the enchanting fishermen's village of Torba. View over 200 Turkish masterpieces throughout the property, including the pool and garden.



Kempinski Hotel Barbaros Bay – Bodrum

Overlooking one of the Aegean's most magnificent bays, this luxurious resort boasts 149 rooms and 24 suites all with panoramic sea views. Pamper yourself and unwind at the spa and secluded beach, or dive into watersports, golf and fitness activities.



Marmara Hotel – Bodrum

This is one of the world's finest boutique hotels with exceptional service and ideal location. Its distinctive architecture and sophisticated residential design is captured in its 96 deluxe rooms and suites. The Marmara offers Mediterranean cuisine with creative lunch and dinner menus in its terrace overlooking the Bodrum peninsula.



Colossae Thermal Hotel – Pamukkale

The hotel is located near the white travertine of Pamukkale and the historical heritage of Hierapolis. Relax and feel the healing properties of the thermal water in the Colossae Spa. Its 230 rooms are nicely appointed and feature air conditioning, minibars, wi-fi and balconies.



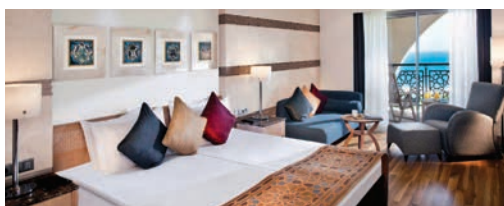
Mardan Palace – Antalya

On the sun-kissed Turkish Riviera in Antalya, this five-star destination resort hails a return to the Golden Age of the Ottoman Empire. Integrating architecture reflecting Istanbul's distinctive landmarks, it features 546 rooms, a spa, a golf course and 10 restaurants.



Rixos – Antalya

Overlooking a turquoise sea and the famous Konyaalti Beach, the newly renovated Rixos Downtown Antalya Hotel offers luxurious comfort amidst splendid views. Experience the spa, which combines local holistic therapies and traditional services. Rooms all have panoramic views of the Mediterranean or the Taurus Mountains.



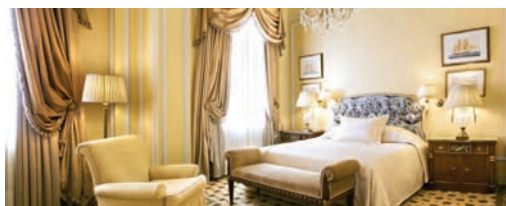
Kempinski Dome – Antalya

Settle into your elegantly decorated Seljuk-style rooms and experience warm Turkish hospitality throughout your stay at this 175-room hotel. Enjoy exceptional cuisine, one of Turkey's largest spas, the vast outdoor swimming pool, two golf courses and a lovely sandy beach.



Nisyanan Evleri Hotel – Sirince

Whether you stay in a historic village house, one of the two elegant inns or a rustic cottage, you'll be enveloped in beauty, peace and the warm hospitality of your Armenian host at this eclectic hotel just 10 minutes from Ephesus.



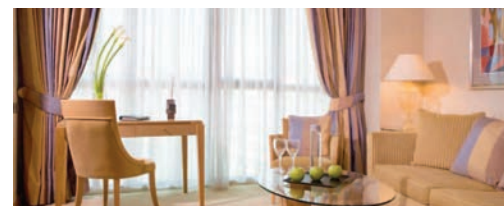
Grande Bretagne – Athens, Greece

The 320 hotel rooms and suites at this five-star hotel overlooking the Acropolis and Parthenon are classically decorated to celebrate Greek culture, marrying old-world elegance with state-of-the-art facilities. The award-winning hotel's fine restaurants and spa are rated superb.



Classical King George Palace – Athens, Greece

Since 1936, this luxurious boutique hotel has been home to kings, princes and presidents. One of the Leading Hotels of the World, its 101 rooms and suites reflect the grace and stature of a historic landmark with ultra-modern amenities and personal service.



Melia Athens – Athens, Greece

With stunning views of the Acropolis and Lycabettus Hill, the Melia Athens is located in the heart of the Greek capital within walking distance of the archaeological museum. Its contemporary facilities include 136 deluxe rooms, a roof-top swimming pool and fine dining.

GREECE OVERVIEW

Romantic and historic, Greece conjures up images of scenic islands, white-washed buildings and sandy beaches, as well as ancient cities with mythic history. Since time immemorial, intrepid travelers have been journeying between Turkey and Greece. The two destinations share civilizations that date back thousands of years; so it makes good sense to be able to combine them on a single trip. Let Magister create your dream vacation to Turkey and Greece. Here are some of the highlights of Greece that you may wish to include.

Meteora, Greece

Athens

The capital of Greece, located in the southern region of Attica, is often called the birthplace of Western civilization. Settlements appeared as early as 3000 BCE on the hill of the Acropolis. There are abundant sights to explore in this historic city. Remarkable archaeological sites, such as the Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch, await you on the longest pedestrian street in Europe. See the Theatre of Dionysus, where plays were performed in the 5th century BCE. Observe the beautiful Odeon of Herodes Atticus that was built in 161 CE for musical concerts and is still used today during the annual Athens Festival. With a history spanning thousands of years, the Acropolis is the symbol of Athens and one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world. See the Propylaea – the magnificent entrance built between 437 and 432 BCE. Admire the temple of Athena Nike that was built to commemorate victory against Persians. Be mesmerized at the sight of the famous Parthenon, the architectural masterpiece dedicated to goddess Athena.

Discover Filopappos Hill, a lush green area with remarkable monuments and a great view of the Acropolis and Parthenon. Wander through the Ancient Greek Agora or market, where you can see monuments from the 5th century BCE to the 11th century CE. Additional sights include the Roman Agora, Kerameikos, and Byzantine churches. Be sure to stroll the elegant Plaka – the oldest district in Athens also called "Gods' District" – with narrow paved lanes lined with colorful houses and lovely gardens. Observe the Ottoman and Byzantine influence in the streets of "old" Athens or Monastiraki. If shopping is your interest, visit the traditional shopping center of Athens in the "heart" of the city.

Delphi & Meteora

Central Greece is home to the impressive archaeological site of Delphi, known for its Temple of Apollo and the most important oracle in classical Greece. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was also home to the Pythian Games in the 8th century BCE – a precursor to the modern Olympics – where athletes from all over Greece competed for the laurel crown. Take a day trip from Athens and visit the theatre, the Tholos, the Gymnasium and Delphi Archaeological Museum.

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Meteora and you will soon understand why it is so named. Meaning "suspended in the air" the area is the site of a unique collection of monasteries perched on rocky outcrops above the Peneas valley and the town of Kalambaka on the Thessalian plain.

Thessaloniki

Located on the coast in northern Greece, Thessaloniki is home to one of the most impressive squares in the country – Aristotelous Square. The city's landmark is the White Tower, 33.9 meters high, built under Ottoman sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in the 15th century.

Visit the Palace of Galerius and see its renowned mosaics. See the Ancient Agora dating from the 3rd century BCE, Byzantine Bath, Hamza Bey Mosque, and the harbor with its Customs house and warehouses that are used as venues for the International Film Festival and as the Cinema Museum. Those interested in religious sights will want to visit the Acheiropoietos Church with its fine mosaics and frescoes, and the church of Ayois Dimitrios, the city's Patron Saint.

Peloponnese

This region in southern Greece is known for its historic sites. Discover the ancient city of Corinth which dates from the 10th century BCE and is home to the inspiring Temple of Apollo. For Christians, the city has religious significance in that St. Paul lived and taught here and wrote two of his epistles to the Christian community at Corinth. Tour Olympia and see the site of the first Olympic Games in honor of Zeus. In Mycenae, you'll find the acropolis from 2000 BCE and its Archaeological Museum. Nearby, visit the ancient theatre of Epidaurus and the beautiful seaport town of Nafplion, a popular cruise stop.

Mykonos & Santorini

The Cyclades in the Aegean Sea are comprised of some of the world's most alluring islands – including famed Mykonos and Santorini. The Cyclades are bound together by stunning scenery and the famous Cycladic architecture – white-washed cube houses with rounded corners built next to and on top of each other. Typically built on steep cliffs with unobstructed views of the turquoise Aegean, it is these structures that draw attention to these islands. The style is derived from Cycladic art that flourished over 4,000 years ago!





The village of Plaka/Athens

Crete

The largest island in Greece is the site of remains of civilizations, stunning mountain scenery and glorious beaches. In the capital city of Heraklion, witness the influences of an unusual mixture of Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman civilizations. This region of the island, nestled between two mountain ranges, has exceptional archaeological treasures, picturesque villages, olive groves and vineyards. Visit Heraklion's Archaeological Museum to see an excellent collection of antiquities from the Minoan civilization which flourished on Crete between 2700 and 1500 BCE.

The picturesque town of Neapoli is located in the easternmost and least mountainous region of Crete. Here you find well-preserved neoclassical buildings and Byzantine monasteries. Also in this region is Vai, the only palm forest in Europe, consisting of more than 5,000 trees, reportedly dating back to medieval times when the Arabs conquered Crete and planted the trees. In Lerapetra – the sunniest city in Europe – visit the 13th-century fortress at the port entrance and the Archaeological Museum housed in the former Ottoman school.

Rhodes & Patmos

The largest of the Dodecanese island group, located southwest of the Turkish coast in the eastern Aegean Sea, Rhodes is famous for the Colossus of Rhodes – one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Among the historical sights to visit on the island is the Acropolis, the ancient cities of Lalyos and Kamrios, Rhodes Old Town – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – and the ancient Rhodes Footbridge.

Patmos is one of the smaller islands in the group and is an important stop for Christian pilgrims. Its historic center in Chora, along with the Monastery of St. John and the Cave of the Apocalypse – also called Holy Grotto of Revelation – were declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1999.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations & Requests

Please send reservation requests to our Head Office: info@magister.com.tr

Confirmations

Requests will be acknowledged by return e-mail or facsimile within 48 hours. The reservation status of your booking will be sent to you within 72 hours of the request.

Accommodation & Rates

Rates will be quoted on a per person basis in accordance with the tour program. You may choose the category of hotels you would like included in the program when requesting reservations. Specific hotels can also be requested. In cases where the desired hotel is unavailable, another hotel of similar category will be offered.

Rates will be quoted in U.S. dollars. Prices are subject to change without prior notice as a result of currency fluctuations, additional taxes or circumstances beyond the control of Magister Tours.

Deposits & Payment

Deposit requirements for your booking will be advised by Magister Tours at the time of confirmation. All deposits are considered advance payments toward the tour price. Deposits that are non-refundable are advised at the time of confirmation. For FIT bookings, final payment is required prior to arrival. For group reservations, the payment requirements will be established with the confirmation of the reservation. Payments may be made by bank transfer or credit card. Visa, MasterCard and American Express cards are welcome.

Cancellation Charges

For cancellations received more than 24 hours prior to arrival, there will be no penalty unless otherwise indicated at the time of confirmation. Cancellation charges for group bookings and yachting programs vary according to the size of the group and the season of travel. Special terms and conditions will be determined and included in the group contract prior to final confirmation.

Magister Tours pledges to exercise utmost goodwill and cooperation in minimizing the cancellation charges. However, no-show fees will be the responsibility of the guests.

Transfers & Portage

Unless otherwise specified, portage of two pieces of luggage per person is included both at the airport and hotel during transfers.

Meals & Beverages

Meals and beverages are included as specified in the confirmation of the tour program.

Excursions & Itineraries

Excursions are operated by private vehicle or on a seat-in-coach basis accompanied by an official licensed English-speaking guide. Magister Tours reserves the right to change travel programs, routes and timetables, with or without prior notice, when circumstances beyond the control of the agency make such changes necessary.

Liability

Magister Tours Inc. acts solely as agent in all matters relating to hotel accommodation, transportation, services and facilities provided by other parties and is responsible only for the completion of the services confirmed. While exercising every possible precaution, Magister Tours is not responsible for injury, sickness, damage, loss, additional expenses, accidental delay or other irregularities which may be caused either through willful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of companies or individuals providing or engaged in accommodation, transportation or other services related to the accomplishment of the tour, or through natural disasters and social upheavals.

Insurance

Magister Tours cannot be held responsible or liable for loss, damage or theft of luggage or personal belongings, nor for personal injury, accident or illness. Therefore, we strongly recommend that travelers purchase full travel insurance.



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