ITINERARY

Miracles of Turkey-11 Days/10 Nights

Get to the heart of Turkish culture and history on this Fabulous Turkey adventure. You'll marvel at Istanbul's Hagia Sophia,

DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	DURATION
—	—	**11 Days / 10 Nights**

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1

Day 01- Arrival to Istanbul

Upon arrival at Istanbul Airport, you will meet our local tour guide. You will then be transferred to your hotel to complete the check-in process. The rest of the day will be at your leisure.
Overnight in Istanbul. No lunch or dinner included.

Day 2

Day 02-Instanbul

Spend your day delving into Istanbul, the only city that straddles two continents, where modern and ancient coexist. Your tour includes a short briefing and the picture stop at the courtyard of the Blue Mosque, a 17th century Ottoman Mosque famous for its six minarets and magnificent interior made of blue tiles. Continue to the Hippodrome, an ancient Grecian stadium for horse racing and chariot racing during the Roman period. Today, you may join the Optional Half Day Istanbul with St. Sophia & Underground Cistern *(USD 120, Min. 10 Guests).* This tour's highlights include the Underground Cistern - water source of the Byzantine and Ottoman periods. Then visit St. Sophia, the great *Byzantine Basilica built in the 6th century*, which remained the largest cathedral in the world for almost a thousand years, it was later converted to a mosque.
Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 3

Istanbul-Troy-Canakkale

This morning, proceed to the legendary archaeological city of Troy (320 Km, approx. 3.5 hrs). Step back in time among its ancient ruins and relive the epic saga of the Trojan War, immortalized in Homer's Iliad.
Troy is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A large wooden horse replica at the entrance symbolizes this myth and is a popular photo stop. Troy is not a "city" in the modern sense today, but a world-famous archaeological and mythological site, blending history, legend, and ancient civilization layers in one place.
Afterward, continue on to Çanakkale (35 km, approx. 40 min), a historic city straddling both sides of the Dardanelles Strait. Çanakkale sits on the narrow Dardanelles Strait, which connects the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmara. Here, explore fascinating museums and landmarks that reflect its strategic importance through the centuries. Many travelers stay in Çanakkale for tours to the ancient ruins. Nearby is the Gallipoli Peninsula, one of the most important WWI battlefields, which includes memorials and cemeteries for soldiers from Turkey, Australia, and New Zealand. A major site of historical remembrance
Conclude the day with a transfer to your hotel, followed by dinner and an overnight stay in Çanakkale.

Day 4

Day 04- Canakkale-Pergamon-Izmir

This morning, drive to Pergamon (Distance 285 Km, approximately 5 hrs, depending on the ferry crossing and traffic), a powerful kingdom during the ancient Hellenistic or Greek period. Pergamon was a powerful Hellenistic and Roman city. The ancient acropolis sits dramatically on a steep hill overlooking the modern town of Bergama. It offers panoramic views over the surrounding valley. It boasts one of the dramatic hillside theater, one of the steepest in the ancient world that could seat thousands of spectators with stunning views of the landscape below

Then visit Asklepion (4 Km, about 10 minutes by car), which is an extension of Pergamon, an ancient Roman spa center.

In the afternoon, travel to either **Izmir or Kusadas**i (depending on hotel confirmation). *Distance is about 100 Km, 1.5 hour by car.*

Izmir, set on the stunning Aegean coast, is renowned for its vast archaeological treasures.

Conclude the day with dinner and an overnight stay at your hotel.

Highlights of Izmir:

Aegean coastal city vibe

Turkey's third-largest city and a modern, relaxed coastal metropolis

Long seaside promenade (Kordon) perfect for walking and sunsets

Ancient roots as Smyrna, one of the oldest cities in the Mediterranean

Close to major archaeological sites like Pergamon and Ephesus

Konak Square & Clock Tower, whic is an Iconic landmark and central meeting point of the city

Kemeralti Bazaar, one of Turkey's oldest traditional markets

Labyrinth of shops, cafés, and local craftsLifestyle

Young, vibrant, university-driven atmosphere

Blend of modern city life and relaxed Aegean culture

Highlights of Kusadasi

One of Turkey's most popular cruise ship ports and beach destinations

Known for its lively tourist atmosphere and seaside hotels

Warm Aegean waters ideal for swimming and relaxation

Gateway to Ephesus

Active nightlife in summer months

Dilek Peninsula National Park (nearby), which is a natural park with hiking trails, wildlife, and secluded beaches

Day 5

Day 05- Izmir-Ephesus-Pamukkale-Hierapolis

After breakfast, begin the day with a journey into a region rich in spiritual, religious, and cultural heritage.

Continue to the magnificent ancient city of Ephesus (80 km, approx. 1 hour 15 minutes), once the capital of Asia Minor and one of the best-preserved Greco-Roman cities. Ephesus offers a world-class ancient city experience, featuring iconic Roman architecture, one of the greatest ancient libraries, and vast theatres and marble streets. The city holds deep historical and religious significance. Walk through its storied streets and admire iconic landmarks such as the Temple of Hadrian, the Temple of Trajan, the impressive Theatre, and the grand Library of Celsus. Next, stop by a traditional artisan leather workshop to witness the craftsmanship and skill of local makers.

Then transfer to Pamukkale (180 km, approx. 3 hours 15 minutes), where history and nature come together in spectacular fashion.

Pamukkale and Hierapolis are closely linked and usually visited together as one site. They are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Sites, recognized for both their natural beauty and archaeological significance.

Pamukkale is famous for its white limestone terraces formed by mineral-rich thermal waters. The pools create a surreal, cascading landscape of natural "steps" filled with warm turquoise waters.

The ancient city of Hierapolis is located directly above the terraces. It is a well-preserved Greco-Roman spa city featuring streets, temples, baths, and a large amphitheatre overlooking the valley. One of the most popular visitor experiences in Hierapolis is Cleopatra's Pool, a thermal pool where visitors can swim among ancient submerged Roman columns. The warm, mineral-rich waters are believed to have healing properties.

You may relax and enjoy the blissful thermal pools at your hotel before dinner.

Overnight in Pamukkale.

Day 6

Day 06- Pamukkale - Konya

After breakfast, we are heading to Konya (400 KM, approx 5.5 hrs).
Konya is the spiritual heart of Anatolia. Konya is one of Turkey's most important religious and cultural centers that is deeply connected to Sufism, a mystical branch of Islam. It is also famous for its culinary tradictions, such as *etli ekmek* (Turkish-style flatbread with meat).
Overnight stay in Konya

Day 6

Day 07-Konya-Cappadocia

After breakfast, continue to Cappadocia (240 Km, approx. between 3 and 3.5 hours), a land of surreal rock formations and rich cultural heritage. This unique region is home to rock-cut churches, ancient underground cities, and extraordinary landscapes.
Visit the famous "Fairy Chimneys," Cappadocia's iconic volcanic cones. These clusters of soft, rose-colored rock have been naturally shaped into fascinating forms—look closely and you may spot a dolphin, Napoleon's hat, or even the Virgin Mary. Your guide will explain how these formations were created over thousands of years by erosion.
You will also see remarkable mushroom-shaped, chimney-like rock formations once used by monks as shelters, and have the opportunity to step inside and explore their interior spaces.
Continue with visits to a traditional ceramic workshop and a stone atelier to witness the region's timeless craftsmanship.
Today, *you may also join* the optional Jeep Safari Tour (USD 100, minimum 4 guests) and the traditional Turkish Night Dance Show with unlimited drinks (USD 85).
Optional Jeep Safari and Sunset in Cappadocia (USD 100) – Explore the deep valleys of Cappadocia in a 4x4 jeep, enjoying an exciting off-road adventure that takes you through some of the region's most scenic landscapes. End the experience with a stunning sunset over the valleys.
Optional Turkish Night in Cappadocia (USD 85) – Enjoy a lively evening of traditional entertainment, featuring folk dances from across Turkey and an iconic belly dance performance. Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere, admire colorful costumes and music, and celebrate the region's rich cultural heritage. The show includes unlimited alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages throughout the night.
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8

Day 08-Capadoccia

Breakfast at the hotel. Begin the day with the option of a hot air balloon ride over Cappadocia (optional)—a once-in-a-lifetime experience as you float above fairy chimneys, volcanic valleys, and rock-hewn churches, watching the sunrise paint the landscape in golden hues.
By mid-morning, set out to explore the dramatic landscapes of Cappadocia, sculpted over three million years by volcanic eruptions. Visit the Goreme Open Air Museum, a Byzantine monastic complex adorned with vivid frescoes, before heading to the enchanting valleys of Avcilar and Güvercinlik, famous for their surreal "Fairy Chimneys."
Later, you may visit the Kaymakli Underground City (optional, USD 50 per person). This remarkable underground settlement consists of multiple levels carved into volcanic rock, connected by a network of tunnels. It features ventilation shafts and an ingenious communication system, allowing inhabitants to live safely underground during times of danger.
Wrap up the afternoon with a visit to a local carpet workshop, where the region's rich weaving traditions come to life.
Return to your hotel in Cappadocia.
Optional Hot Air Balloon Flight (USD 330 per person): Enjoy approximately one hour in the air over Cappadocia's magical terrain, followed by a non-alcoholic celebratory drink and a personalized flight certificate. Minimum age: 6 years. Flights are weather-dependent and confirmed the day before; refunds are provided in case of cancellation.
Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 9

Day 09- Cappadocia – Safranbolu

After breakfast, depart for Safranbolu (470 km, approximately 6 hours). We will travel through the majestic mountains en route to this UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city is famous for its authentic Ottoman-era architecture and its historic bazaars & streets. Walking through the Old Town feels like stepping back in time.

Safranbolu takes its name from *saffron*, one of the world's most valuable spices. The city is also known for its *Turkish delight (lokum)*, saffron-infused dishes and its raditional Anatolian cuisine. Nearby villages still cultivate saffron using traditional methods.

Upon arrival, stroll through the charming Old Town, where cobblestone lanes wind past tightly packed, timber-framed Ottoman mansions—many beautifully restored as boutique hotels and restaurants.

Optional activities (if time/energy allows): A short evening stroll through illuminated streets and a visit a local café for Turkish tea or coffee

In September and October, you may experience the Safranbolu Saffron Flower Festival, a unique celebration of the world's most precious spice. Witness the saffron harvest firsthand while admiring the town's exquisite Ottoman architecture.

Please note: the festival is weather-dependent; if canceled, no alternative activity will be provided.

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Day 10

Day 10- Safranbolu-Istanbul

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to *Istanbul* (Approximately 410 Km, driving time: 5 to 6 hours)

Upon arrival, enjoy the free time in Istanbul.

For those eager to discover more, *you may join an Optional Spice Bazaa*r visit & dinner show on the Bosphorus (Optional USD$95). The best way to enjoy a traditional Turkish dinner is on an evening cruise down the Bosphorus! See the suspension bridges of Istanbul as they twinkle in the evening light. Enjoy exciting dance shows (belly dance and dervish), Turkish music, a delicious dinner and two drinks per person. in Üsküdar.

Day 11

Day 11- Return flight home

Breakfast and check out. Pick up from the hotel to the airport for your return flight.

WHAT'S INCLUDED & EXCLUDED

COST INCLUDES

- ✓ Airport-hotel-airport transfers
- ✓ 10 nights accommodation in 4-5 star hotels
- ✓ Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- ✓ Sightseeing as per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- ✓ Entrance fees as per itinerary
- ✓ 10 Daily breakfast and 2 lunches
- ✓ English-speaking tour guide

COST EXCLUDES

- ✗ Travel Insurance or any protection plans
- ✗ Tips and gratuities: We suggest 12 USD per person/day
- ✗ Personal expenses such as laundry service, souvenirs and telephone calls
- ✗ International airfare from other cities
- ✗ Any other items not mentioned in the inclusions
- ✗ OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS OR EVENTS NOT INCLUDED AS PER ITINERARY

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

- **Valid Passport** — must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the return date
- **Required Visas** — verify visa requirements for your destination and nationality before travel
- **Travel Insurance Certificate** — trip cancellation and out-of-country medical coverage (strongly recommended)
- **Credit Card & Cash** — for personal expenses and emergencies

- **Medications** — in original packaging with prescriptions, plus a copy stored separately

IMPORTANT TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Entry Requirements: Entry to another country may be refused even if the required information and travel documents are complete. It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure all documents are valid and in order.

Local Conditions: Living standards and practices at the destination, and the standards and conditions with respect to utilities, services, and accommodation, may differ from those found in Canada.

Airport Arrival: Please arrive at the airport at least **3 hours before** international departures and **2 hours before** domestic departures. Reconfirm onward flights with the airline at least 72 hours in advance.

Government Travel Advice: Check Global Affairs Canada at **travel.gc.ca** for the latest travel advisories for your destination.