

TURKEY AT ITS BESTSM

DELUXE PRIVATE TOURS BY



NEWPORT
INTERNATIONAL
TRAVEL

Established in 1986

AN IDEAL TOUR OF TURKEYSM

2021 Tour Dates

SEPTEMBER 17 – SEPTEMBER 27

OCTOBER 8 – OCTOBER 18

\$4,950 per person in a Double Room

\$2,960 Single Supplement



HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- *Visit the world-famous sites of Istanbul*
- *Enjoy a private boat cruise on the Bosphorus, sailing between the coasts of Asia and Europe*
- *Indulge in tasty meals at authentic venues*
- *Be the dinner guests of a Turkish couple in their 150-year-old village stone house*
- *Visit underground cities, cave churches, and the lunar-like landscapes of Cappadocia*
- *Learn ancient crafts, including doll-making, from the villager doll makers themselves*
- *Visit the UNESCO World-Heritage Sites of Pergamum and Ephesus*
- *Sample exquisite wines at an old monastery in Cappadocia and a unique winery in Bodrum*
- *Tour a local farmer's market and then attend a cooking class to enjoy your purchases*
- *Enjoy an unforgettable farewell dinner in beautiful Bodrum*

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ITINERARY



DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN ISTANBUL

Friday, September 17 / October 8

You will be arriving at the new Istanbul Airport. You will need a Turkish Visa prior to entering Turkey, which can easily be obtained online, www.evisa.gov.tr. (Turkish Visa is currently \$50 per person for US citizens, \$60 for Canadian and Australians). Currently, the Covid policy requires you to have proof of a negative Covid test taken within 72 hours prior to your arrival, and filling out an online form that you need to take with you: <https://register.health.gov.tr/> After going through Passport control and claiming your luggage, walk over to Exit # 9, where your local host will be waiting for you, holding a sign with your name, to transfer you to *Four Seasons Bosphorus*.

DAY 2: ISTANBUL

Saturday, September 18 / October 9

At 9:30 a.m. your guide will be meeting you at the lobby of your hotel and take you on a full-day tour to show you some of the highlights of this amazing city, starting with the historical center of Sultanahmet!



You will first visit the **Blue Mosque**, with its six graceful minarets and superb interior highlighted with more than 20,000 blue tiles.

Then, walk around the **Hippodrome**, a large square which was once the site of the ancient stadium, now decorated with monuments such as the ‘Serpent Column’, taken from Delphi in Greece, and the Egyptian Obelisk, taken from the Temple of Karnak in Egypt, as well as the ‘German Fountain’

Walk over to **Hagia Sophia**, which was the largest church when it was built in the 6th Century and was later converted to a mosque, then to a museum and now back to a mosque. Its interior is elaborately decorated with beautiful mosaics and precious marbles, including some marble columns that were brought from the Temple of Artemis (which was once one of the ‘Seven Wonders of the World’) near Ephesus.

Enjoy lunch at the famous **Hamdi Restaurant** (or similar).



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Also visit the **Underground Cistern**, the largest of several hundred ancient cisterns that lie beneath the city of Istanbul. The cistern was built in the 6th Century; it is supported by 336 Corinthian columns (featured in the James Bond movie “From Russia with Love”).

End your tour with a visit to the famous **Covered Bazaar** (also known as the Grand Bazaar), one of the oldest and biggest malls - with over 4000 shops under hundreds of domes. Today, the Grand Bazaar houses four fountains, two mosques, two hammams (*Turkish Baths*), and multiple restaurants and cafes. The sprawling complex consists of 12 major buildings and has 22 gates.

Your guide will take you back to your hotel in the afternoon.

Tonight, enjoy dinner at a famous *Kebab House*.
(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)



DAY 3: ISTANBUL

Sunday, September 19 / October 10



At 9:00 a.m., your guide will be meeting you at the lobby of your hotel to take you on an exciting tour to show more of the highlights of Istanbul:

First, visit **Topkapi Palace**, home to Ottoman Sultans for many centuries. Located on the very cape of the peninsula where Constantinople was founded, Topkapi Palace was built as the center of administration of the Ottoman Empire after the city was conquered by Turks in 1453 AD. Topkapi Palace is famous for its Treasury, displaying among other treasures the famed “Topkapi Dagger” and the “Kasikci (or Spoonmaker’s) Diamond”, as well as for its China Collection.

Afterwards, visit the **Spice Bazaar** - which was built in the 17th Century and is also known as the Egyptian Bazaar; it is one of the oldest markets in the city and the second largest covered shopping complex after the Grand Bazaar. The Spice Bazaar is housed in an “L”- shaped building, consisting of 88 vaulted rooms, almost all of which are now divided into an upper and a lower story. You will be fascinated with the aromas and colors of exotic spices and herbs, and delectables such as the famous Turkish Delights



Right across from the Spice Bazaar is the famous **Galata Bridge**, from where you will cross the Golden Horn (Galata Koprusu), against the vistas of Historic Istanbul on both sides of this famous body of water. You will see many locals fishing from the two levels of the bridge.

Enjoy lunch at the historic *Karakoy Restaurant* (or similar).



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Afterwards, you might wish to stop to see the most famous “**Baklava**” shop in Istanbul – for many the best in the world! [Baklava originated in the ancient city of Gaziantep on the southeastern part of Turkey. The cuisine of that city is larger than the entire French cuisine!] At *Gulluoglu Baklava* shop, you will see many varieties of that famous dessert. Continue your walk on the cobble-stone streets of **Karakoy**.



Your tour concludes with a **Bosphorus Cruise** aboard a private boat, sailing between the coasts of Asia and Europe. The famous Istanbul skyline, with its domes and minarets, is best viewed from the sea! You will have an opportunity to see wonderful Ottoman Palaces such as **Dolmabahce Palace** on the European coast, as well as old wooden mansions and modern villas, which are among the most expensive real estate in the world.

You will be sailing under the **Bosphorus Bridge** (its original name), one of the longest suspension bridges, as you sail by the quaint village of Ortakoy, which is also a center of night life nowadays, and finally by Rumelihisar, the Fortress that was built in the 1400’s by Mehmet the Conqueror in just three months; he conquered Constantinople from the Byzantines and made the city, since called Istanbul, the capital of the Ottoman Empire.



At the end of the cruise, enjoy an early dinner at a seafood restaurant, before going back to your hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

DAY 4: ISTANBUL / CAPPADOCIA

Monday, September 20 / October 11



This morning you will be transferred from your hotel to Istanbul Airport for a Turkish Airlines Flight to Kayseri, one of the two gateways of Cappadocia. This ancient region, called Cappadocia, means “the Land of Beautiful Horses” in an old language. It is indeed a natural wonder that might be reminiscent of lunar landscapes due to unusual rock formations. You find another world here, with underground cities, cave churches and cave living that people have created over millennia! When you arrive, you will be met at the Airport and transferred to your beautiful cave hotel, *Argos Cave Hotel* (or similar).

Tonight, you will have a special **wine tasting** in the 1000-year-old cellars of your hotel. For thousands of years the tunnels of the cellar were used to store wine for a monastery. Some of the most popular grapes here are “Kalecik Karasi”, “Shiraz” and “Misket”, also grown right in the vineyards of the hotel. You will experience this magical ambiance firsthand, as you taste various native wines of the region and learn about Anatolian winemaking, as well as Turkish winemakers in general.

Afterwards, continue your gastronomic journey at the lovely *Seki Restaurant* (or similar), where all dishes are prepared with fresh local ingredients.

(Breakfast and Wine tasting and Dinner)



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DAY 5: CAPPADOCIA

Tuesday, September 21 / October 12



Optional Morning Activity:

Very early this morning, you can enjoy a **hot-air balloon ride** over this unusual landscape. One of the highlights of Cappadocia, people enjoy their sunrise flight over this unique landscape. Your ride ends with a taste of local sparkling wine, after which you will be brought back to your hotel for breakfast.

Your guide will then pick you up around at 9:00 – 09:30 a.m. and take you on a tour to show you highlights of Cappadocia.

You will start with a visit to the **underground city of Kaymakli**. Archaeologists estimate that there are at least 30 such underground dwelling complexes, first started by the Hittites around 2,000 B.C.; some are inter-connected by tunnels that have been built over the millennia. The underground city you will be visiting has 8 stories carved into the ground beneath the surface. It is interesting to see the living areas, dining quarters, kitchens, storage areas, churches, etc. The spaces are well lit, and there is good ventilation; but you will need to stoop down in certain places where ceiling is very low.



Afterwards, you will be taken to **Soğanli Valley** to visit a small village where people make their living from farming and livestock. And local women make small dolls to earn extra income for their families. These dolls have the same dresses as the village women. If interested, you can learn how to make these dolls and buy some to support the villagers. These dolls are called “Soganli Dolls” after the name of the village.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Then, go on an easy 2 km walk through the valley with Byzantine period rock churches, and then continue on to **Sobesos** to see Roman Baths and beautiful mosaics.

If time permits, you can also visit the **Taskinpaşa Medresesi**, an Ottoman theological school, and the picturesque village of **Mustafapaşa (old Sinasos)** for examples of Ottoman and Greek Architecture.

After the tour, your guide will bring you back to your hotel.
(Breakfast and Lunch)

Optional Evening Activity:

Performance of the Whirling Dervishes in a Seljuk Caravanserai from the 13th Century, called Sarihan. (It may be crowded with tourists and would be recommended for those who really have an interest in Mevlana and Sufism.)



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DAY 6: CAPPADOCIA

Wednesday, September 22 / October 13



Stop at **Esentepe** to see the panoramic view of Goreme Valley.

You will also visit **Goreme Valley, the open-air museum** with its many rock churches that are decorated with frescoes.

In the village of **Avanos**, you will witness a pottery-making demonstration using ancient Hittite techniques. You can even try your hand on an old-fashioned potter's wheel to create your clay masterpiece.

You will be returning back to your hotel after the tour.
(Breakfast and Lunch)

Your guide will pick you up around at 9:30 and take you on a tour to show more of Cappadocia.

You will visit **Devrent Imagination Valley**, with its lunar-like landscape, where different rock formations are of great interest.

Next, visit **Pasabaglari** (the world-famous **Fairy Chimneys**), the towering rock formations that are now the symbol of Cappadocia.



DAY 7: CAPPADOCIA / IZMIR

Thursday, September 23 / October 14

Early this morning, you will be transferred to Kayseri Airport for your Sun Express Flight # 9039, departing for Izmir at 8:35 a.m. Upon arrival at 10:10 a.m., your local guide will meet you at the airport, and take you to **Pergamum**, one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Turkey.

The visit to the Acropolis in Pergamum will offer a great view of the valley below, and impressive ruins such as a very steep theater, various temples (now restored), and the Altar of Zeus (most of the reliefs from this site are now housed in Berlin) which was described as the "Throne of Satan" in the *Bible*.



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You will see the site of the famous Library that once held over 200,000 scrolls of books written on *parchment*, which was invented in Pergamum (hence the name).

You will also be visiting the **Aesculapion**, the ancient hospital where the famous physician Galen had practiced medicine over 1,800 years ago. [There was an inscription over the entrance of the hospital that read, “In the name of Gods, Death is forbidden to enter”]! Our tour will include the library and the theater of the ancient Hospital that had been used for occupational therapy at the time, as well as the Sacred Tunnel where patients had slept (and the adjoining temples where their dreams had been interpreted).

On the return to Izmir, there will be a stop at a small village for dinner at the 150-year-old restored stone house of a Turkish couple. The wife is a gourmet cook, and the husband is an expert on Turkish wines.

Drive to Izmir for overnight stay at the *Key Hotel* (or similar).
(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)



DAY 8: EPHEBUS / BODRUM

Friday, September 24 / October 15



Your guide will meet you at your hotel at 9:00 a.m. and take you to **Ephesus**, one of the best-preserved cities of antiquity, which also is the one of the largest open-air museums. One of the original ‘Seven Wonders of the Ancient World’, the Temple of Artemis (Diana), was also located in Ephesus.

Ephesus is also famous as the place visited by Apostle Paul (twice) and by John; it was mentioned in the *Book of Revelation*, as one of the Seven Churches, and also in the *Acts of the Apostles*. During this comprehensive tour, you will walk over the marble streets of ancient Ephesus, adorned on both sides with temples, theaters, fountains, and baths, as well as other ancient structures. You will have the opportunity to visit the **Grand Theater** (mentioned in the *Acts of the Apostles*) that accommodated over 24,000 people, the ancient marble public toilets, and the first advertisement - carved on the marble street, giving directions to the “house of ill-repute”!



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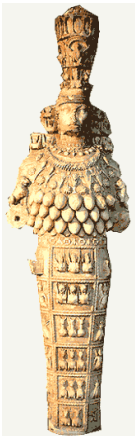
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The highlight will be a tour inside the “**Terrace Houses**”, homes to the wealthy Romans that afford a rare look into everyday life of a family during the Roman period. Then, you are ready to enjoy a special lunch at a charming restaurant, featuring traditional dishes made with the local produce.

Afterwards, there will be a drive by the site of the **Temple of Artemis**, which was one of the ‘Seven Wonders of the Ancient World’, and the **Basilica of St. John** [believed to have been built over the grave of St. John, relatively well preserved and partially restored, where you can still see the baptismal pools].



The greatness and splendor of ancient Ephesus, then, shall come alive again at the **Archaeological Museum** in nearby Selcuk. You will see two famous statues of the Ephesian Artemis, who was the mother goddess for whom one of the Seven Wonders of the World was built, a collection of ancient medical and cosmetic tools, and statues of famous doctors (as Ephesus had housed an important school of medicine), as well as a monument that bears an inscription of customs regulations and tax collection rules – in short, providing an insight into how life was 2000 years ago!

If interested, you can also visit the **House of the Virgin Mary**, believed to be the last house of Mary, and now a place of pilgrimage for Catholics.



Afterwards, you will drive to Bodrum, which would take about 2 ½ hours. Overnight stay will be at *Caresse – a Luxury Collection Property*. (Breakfast and Lunch)

DAY 9: BODRUM

Saturday, September 25 / October 16



Bodrum was called 'Halicarnassus' in ancient times. It was the birthplace of Herodotus; the 'Father of History' who lived in the 5th Century, B.C. The '**Mausoleum of King Mausolus** (350 B.C.), one of the Seven Wonders of the World, was in this city and gave the word “Mausoleum” to the English language.

Your guide will meet you after breakfast and take you on a short tour of Bodrum:

Stop at the **Bodrum Castle (St. Peter's Castle)**, built by Crusaders in the 15th Century, and visit the only **Underwater Archaeology Museum** in the world, also housed in the Castle.

If you are interested, you can also visit the site of the **Mausoleum of Halicarnassus**, and walk on the lovely streets of Bodrum.

You will return at around 1:00 p.m. to enjoy the afternoon at your hotel.



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Later, you will be picked up from your hotel at about 6:00 p.m. for an enjoyable evening...

In Bodrum there is an award-winning vineyard; Karnas Vineyards is located at a 25-minute drive from Bodrum, and is home to the first vineyard to plant the Zinfandel variety in Turkey. It is a boutique winery, where the award-winning wines are produced by a family in its own single vineyard, using traditional techniques. Guests are welcomed to visit the farm, olive orchards, and the vineyards.

In this region, wine making was a tradition even in the Roman Times. Karnas Zinfandel wine is the one and only Zinfandel wine in Turkey. Their Shiraz wines were awarded the best Shiraz / Syrah Wine in Turkey in 2017.

You will be welcomed with a glass of Karnas Rose Zinfandel on arrival. You will have a tour of the Cellar after receiving information about the local area, the grapes, the vineyard and the wines. Their menus differ with the produce of the day; there will be tasting specialties from the Karnas Vineyards/ Selia Farm, such as local virgin olive oil, jams made with the fruits from the garden, goat cheese etc.

The Dinner will have a starter, a hot starter, and a main course, paired with the Vineyard wines; dessert will be followed by home-made limoncello. The concept is 'farm to the table'; everything that is served is grown in the area by local farmers. The grapes are organic.

After dinner you will be taken back to your hotel.
(Breakfast and Dinner with Wine Pairing)

DAY 10: BODRUM

Sunday, September 26 / October 17



Another fun day is planned for today!

You will be met at your hotel at 9:30 a.m., and first taken to the local Farmers' Market to shop for the ingredients of your lunch. The market has displays of local food purveyors who offer self-harvested olives, wild seasonal greens, vegetables, as well as home-made noodles, jams, pickles, breads and a delicious array of cheeses.

From the market we will drive to our Cooking Class kitchen, where you will be coached on how to cook. You will be guided through the delicious secrets of regional Aegean dishes, with its accent on olive oil and fresh herbs, a very special and particularly healthy branch of Turkish cuisine.

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You may either watch the cooking session while sipping a glass of wine or join in for a hands-on experience if you prefer. Afterwards, you will enjoy that delicious lunch.

You will then be transferred back to your hotel to enjoy the afternoon on your own.

Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Dinner at your lovely hotel.
(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)



DAY 11: BODRUM / ISTANBUL / DEPARTURE

Monday, September 27 / October 18

In the morning, you will be transferred to Bodrum Airport for your flight to Istanbul, to connect to your international flight.
(Breakfast)

~ END OF SERVICES ~

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HOTEL INFORMATION

ISTANBUL

The Four Seasons – Istanbul At the Bosphorus

This hotel is the second of the Four-Season chain in Istanbul and is a converted a 19th century Ottoman palace, located right on the Bosphorus. It features a historic architecture in harmony with luxurious details. It is an elegant hotel with top-notch service.

One can relax in one of our traditional hammams, spend an afternoon lounging around our outdoor pool, and savor Anatolian delicacies as you admire the soaring minarets and towers of the city's inimitable waterfront skyline. There is also indoor pool and great Spa facilities.



No:28, Çırağan Cd., 34349
Beşiktaş/İstanbul, Turkey
Phone: +90 (212) 402-3000

<http://www.fourseasons.com/bosphorus/>



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CAPPADOCIA

Argos in Cappadocia:



Argos is located in the heart of Cappadocia, on the site of an ancient monastery in Uchisar Village. This boutique hotel complex is made up of a restored series of ruins in historic Uchisar, in an old, abandoned, neighborhood on the hillside facing Pigeon Valley. A series of traditional houses adjacent to one another were restored or re-constructed with traditional methods to re-create the texture of the neighborhood.



Hotel Argos in Cappadocia opened in 2010, with 51 units of accommodation, each different from the other. Today, the hotel contributes to the social, cultural, and economic life of the village of Uchisar, with a unique under-ground tunnel, restaurant, wide terraces, gardens and vineyards, and a magnificent multi-purpose hall created with the restoration of a 1500-year-old rock-carved monastery (Bezirhane) that can host a series of cultural events from concerts to symposia. The unique cave cellars hold thousands of bottles of great Cappadocia wine, which get top awards in international competitions. The views from the hotel are magical.



Uchisar 50240 Nevsehir

Phone: +90 (384) 219-3130

<http://www.argosincappadocia.com/EN/>

IZMIR

Key Hotel:

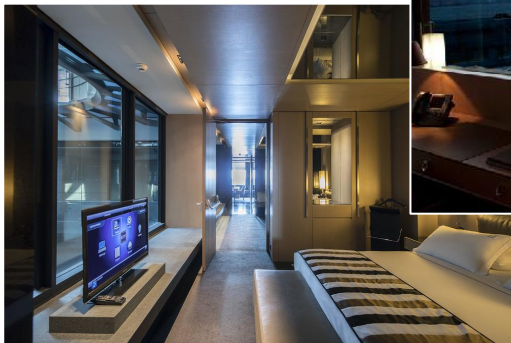
Located in a historic building in the most progressive city in Turkey, Izmir, Key Hotel is lovely small luxury hotel. It is in the heart of the city with right on the water, very close to main promenade with bars, restaurants and clubs with the most beautiful sunsets. Although the building is old, inside is very modern with the state-of-the-art technology. Service is great, and the view from the restaurant is also lovely!

Mimar Kemalettin Caddesi, No. 1

Konak, Izmir 35260

Phone: +90 232 482 1111

www.keyhotel.com



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BODRUM

Caresse, A Luxury Collection Resort & Spa



Caresse, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa in Bodrum, is located in a quiet coastal spot in the Bitez, known for its long, sandy beaches. Bodrum Marina is 12 miles to the east and the small Aegean island of Kara Ada – popular with the yachting crowd – is eight miles offshore. Bodrum's lively center is only 10-minutes away.

The hotel's various mocha-colored geometric blocks are spread over three levels, through mimosa flowers and palm trees, past a large infinity pool down to smart teak decking that stretches the length of a white crescent-shaped beach with sand imported from the Black Sea region). The hotel has 75 rooms, 9 suites, all with a sea view and large balcony or terrace and a Caresse King Villa.



One of Caresse's highlights is the large Balinese-inspired spa: it has six treatment rooms (one with a whirlpool tub), an indoor pool, a large hamam and a yoga massage space. There's also a 24-hour Technogym, tennis courts, a Pilates room and a personal trainer.

The hotel has four restaurants, offering various dining experiences. Buddha-Bar Beach Bodrum, an exclusive beachside restaurant and bar offering a chic day-to-night destination on the Bodrum peninsula is also a new addition to Caresse, Bodrum.

**Adnan Menderes Caddesi, No. 89
Asarlik Mevkii
Bodrum**

Phone: +90 (252) 311-3636

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bjvlc-caresse-a-luxury-collection-resort-and-spa-bodrum/>



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PRICING & PACKAGE DETAILS

PRICING

- **\$4,950 per person in a Double Room**
- **\$2,980 Single Supplement**
- **Estimated Domestic Flights: \$400**

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- All transfers per itinerary
- All tours with English-speaking licensed professional guides
- Air-conditioned chauffeur-drive vehicles
- All entrance fees
- All transportation, including ferry boats, tolls and parking
- Private cruise on the Bosphorus
- Daily breakfast
- Seven Lunches
- Six Dinners
- Wine tasting in Cappadocia
- Special dinner in a Turkish Village House
- Dinner with wine tasting at a vineyard in Bodrum
- Farmer's Market visit and Cooking Class and lunch in Bodrum
- Three-night accommodation at the Istanbul Four Seasons Bosphorus in Deluxe rooms in Istanbul
- Three-night accommodation at the Argos Hotel in Deluxe rooms in Cappadocia
- One-night accommodation at the Key Hotel in Superior Seaview rooms Izmir
- Three-night accommodation at the Cresse Hotel Luxury Collection in Deluxe Sea View Rooms in Bodrum
- All taxes

PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Turkish Visa
- International flights
- Domestic Flights (You will need Istanbul-Cappadocia, Cappadocia-Izmir and Bodrum-Istanbul flights)
- Hot air balloon ride in Cappadocia
- Whirling Dervishes Performance in Cappadocia
- Any item not specifically included in the Itinerary
- Phone calls
- Items of a personal nature
- Alcoholic beverages, unless otherwise specified.
- Gratuities to guides and drivers
- Trip Cancellation Insurance

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DEPOSITS & CANCELLATIONS

Deposit: \$500 per person at the time of confirmation

Final Payment: 30 Days prior to Departure

Cancellations: \$150 cancellation penalty after payment of deposit

No Refunds after final payment in the last 30 days

COVID-19 POLICIES*

All participants to these tours must have been vaccinated. Tourism personnel, such as guides, tour vehicle drivers, hotel personnel in Turkey have been vaccinated.

However, guests must agree to attest to their fitness to travel and agree to comply with all health protocols during their journey. Guests may not travel if they test positive for COVID-19 during the 14 days prior to departure; standard cancellation terms will apply. Guests must maintain adequate physical distancing and frequently wash or sanitize hands during their journey. Masks are required in vehicles, indoor spaces, any outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not possible and in accordance with local regulations. Noncompliance with these measures will result in not being able to continue on the journey. Guest voluntarily assumes all risks and related expenses in the event that they or any member of their travelling party require testing, quarantine or become infected with COVID-19.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) travel restrictions in Turkey – updated March 31, 2021

Requirements to enter Turkey:

Turkey's international land, sea and air borders are open to foreign travelers who meet Turkish immigration rules. Commercial flights are operating, subject to coordination with the Ministry of Health. Contact your airline for the latest information on the status of your flight.

- Beginning December 30, 2020 all international arrivals age 6 years and older are required to have taken a COVID-19 PCR test with a negative result within 72 hours prior to their flight. Passengers must submit their test results to the airline at the time of check-in. Passengers failing to submit a negative PCR test will not be permitted to board the flight to Turkey.
- All travelers age 6 years and older who arrive in Turkey through land or sea will be asked to present a negative PCR test result document issued 72 hours prior to arrival. Those who fail to do so at the border gate or seaport will be quarantined in the address to where they are going.
- As of March 15, all passengers arriving in Turkey (except the transit passengers) are now required to fill out "Form for Entry to Turkey" at <http://register.health.gov.tr> within the last 72 hours before their flights.

What to expect while traveling around Turkey

The Turkish Government has introduced measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, and further restrictions may be introduced with little notice. Please contact us to learn the current status.

** COVID-19 policies and guidelines are current as of the date of this document and may be subject to change at any time without warning.*