

Wonders of Istanbul Tour

Your tour of the most renowned sites in Istanbul will start with the Hippodrome, which was one of the largest chariot race grounds of the Byzantine Empire. Explore the Blue Mosque within a complex that includes tombs, fountains, kitchens, and a bath. The blue Iznik Tiles covering the walls have given the mosque its popular name. You will also explore St. Sophia (the Church of Divine Wisdom) and one of the greatest marvels of architecture. This monument was constructed as a basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian. Your adventure will then continue through the Grand Bazaar, the largest and oldest covered Bazaar in Turkey with more than 4,000 shops. A variety of handicrafts, carpets, rare jewels, and souvenirs are all sold in small shops next to each other, with merchants selling everything from antiques, homewares, books, copperware, ceramics, gold, and inexpensive trinkets. Venture into the hidden courtyards, and look out for marble fountains and ornate kiosks. During the visit to the Grand Bazaar, you will taste Turkish coffee in Sark Kahvesi, a 400-year-old Turkish Coffee House.

[Duration: **Half day**]

Inclusions: Private transportation, licensed guide, entrance fees

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Istanbul Port



Disclaimer: Given that some of the sites you will be visiting are of religious importance, proper attire must be worn to enter.

Highlights of Istanbul with public Bosphorus cruise

Today's tour will allow you to uncover some of the most renowned sites in Istanbul. You will start by visiting the Hippodrome and the remains of the giant arena that functioned as the site for sporting events and political activities of the old city in the Roman and Byzantine eras. From there, you will head to the Blue Mosque. Just opposite St. Sophia, this exquisite mosque built in the name of Sultan Ahmet is famous for its blue Iznik (Nicean) tiles and is unique for having six minarets. You will also explore St. Sophia (the Church of Divine Wisdom) and one of the greatest marvels of architecture. Your next stop will be the Grand Bazaar, a historical shopping center that ranks as the biggest souk in the world, with nearly 4000 shops featuring antiques, gold, carpets, and leatherwear. During the visit of the Grand Bazaar, you will taste Turkish coffee in Sark Kahvesi, a 400-year-old Turkish Coffee House. After touring the highlights of the city, you will enjoy a public cruise on the Bosphorus that separates the Asian and the European continents and is the lifeblood of Istanbul.

[Duration: 8 hours]

Inclusions: Private transportation, licensed guide, entrance fees

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Disclaimer: Kindly note that Ladies must wear a head covering upon entering the mosques (offered free of charge outside entrance).

Bodrum and castle discovery tour

Today's tour will focus on the magnificent Bodrum castle. The Castle of St. Peter the Liberator of the Order of the Knights of the Hospital of St. John of Rhodes - to give it its full, comprehensive title - is Bodrum's acclaimed landmark. It occupies the tip of the wedge-like peninsula at the center of Bodrum and it represents a splendid incarnation of medieval western military architecture, built at a time when the European Middle Ages were over, and castles of this type were fast becoming objects of nostalgia. It has a massive conglomeration of courtyards, turrets, galleries, and sunken gardens. Over a period of six centuries it has served as a military garrison, a compound enclosing a tiny village, and even as a fortress prison. Today it houses one of the world's finest museums of nautical archaeology.

[Duration: 4 hours]

Inclusions: Private transportation, licensed guide, entrance fees

Bodrum Port



Tour of Ephesus & terrace houses

Reach the timeless city of Ephesus where history and archaeology will offer you their majesty with incredible richness. You will pursue the traces of the glorious past of Ephesus walking on the Marble Road that runs through the city with various structures resting on it: Temple of Hadrian, Library of Celsus, Great Theater of Ephesus. Proceed the tour with Temple of Artemis that was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The temple was built in 6th century BC and was known to have been the very first building ever-built entirely of marble. It had 127 Ionic pillars with the famous Ionic proportion and was rebuilt by Alexander the Great right after he took over the control of the city from the Persians. Terrace Houses called also "the houses of rich" are located on the hill, opposite the Hadrian Temple. The wealthy and important people of Ephesus used these houses, which are decorated with mosaics and frescoes giving a true impression of the ancient family life during the Roman period

[Duration: Half day]

Inclusions: Private sightseeing tours on mentioned sites, entrance fees of the specified museums in the itinerary, transportation by A/C deluxe vehicle, private english speaking professional tour guide

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Tour to the Ancient city of Pergamon

In today's tour, you will explore the historic city of Pergamon. The city was famous during the first and second centuries CE for its extensive hospital and healing sanctuary dedicated to the god Asclepius. It stood over half a mile from the acropolis and the main portions of the city, to which it was attached by a paved and colonnaded processional way. It was founded in the 3rd century BC and was once a cultural epicenter of the East Roman Empire. Here you will see the Acropolis of the city, which is perched on a hill and offers amazing views. The Library of Pergamum was one of the most important libraries of the ancient world. The ruins of the library sit on a hilltop near the Sanctuary of Athena and other buildings of the Pergamon Acropolis. Then, you will visit Asklepeion, one of the most important healing centers of ancient times that was founded in the 4th century BC. Asklepeion was devoted to Asclepius, the God of health, and the health center had a reputation that hosted many important historic figures of the period and offered treatments based on the dreams of their patients. With the help of your professional guide, you will explore the most important sites of the city, and learn about its great history and significance to the ancient world.

[Duration: **Full day**]

Inclusions: Private transportation, licensed guide, entrance fees

 Kusadasi Port



Ancient Ephesus tour

Today you will have the opportunity to visit the House of Virgin Mary, where the Virgin is said to have lived the last years of her life. The site is officially declared a shrine of the Roman Catholic Church and visited by Pope Paul VI in 1967. As you continue your tour you will visit Ephesus, famous throughout the ancient world for its Temple of Artemis. You will first visit the Odeon Theatre where state affairs used to be held. You will then see the Hadrian Temple, It was dedicated in 118 AD to Hadrian, Artemis, and the people of Ephesus but greatly reconstructed in the 4th century. This impressive Corinthian style temple has beautiful reliefs on the porch. Your next stop will be Celsus Library, the library is the best-preserved structure of its kind. The Great Theatre dates to the Hellenistic period. In the 1st century AD and it was successfully reconstructed, expanded by the Romans until it reached the seating capacity of 25,000. Marble Road runs between the Library of Celsus and the theater and is a part of the sacred walk. Terrace Houses, also called "the houses of the rich", are located on the hill, opposite the Hadrian Temple. The wealthy and important people of Ephesus used these houses, which are decorated with mosaics and frescoes giving a true impression of ancient family life during the Roman period.

[Duration: Half day]

Inclusions: Private transportation, licensed guide, entrance fees

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For more information

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