

**TIMELESS TURKEY SMALL GROUP COACH TOURS 2021** 

All prices are in Australian Dollars unless otherwise stated

28/1/21

## 16 DAY AUTHENTIC ADVENTURE 'OPTION A' TOUR Istanbul – Istanbul Including 3 night Gulet Cruise

# DEPARTS ISTANBUL THURSDAYS 01 APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

Tour is guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 and a maximum 22 passengers.

## Day 1 (Thursday) ARRIVE ISTANBUL

Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to the hotel. A welcome briefing will be held this evening.

## Day 2 (Friday) ISTANBUL

Enjoy a full day tour including a visit to Topkapi Palace; residence of the Ottoman Sultans 1453 – 1852 (excludes Harem). Visit the Hippodrome, which was once the centre of life where chariot racing and other public events took place. Tour the Blue Mosque, built 1609 – 1616, famous for its blue ceramic tiles. Next see St. Sophia, a church built in the 6th century Byzantine capital, converted to a mosque by the Ottomans, and now a museum and one of the world's greatest architectural wonders. Your last stop will be the famous Grand Bazaar, the world's largest and oldest covered market with over 60 streets. (B) *Evening optional: Dinner with belly dancing entertainment* 

#### Day 3 (Saturday)

## ISTANBUL / GALLIPOLI / CANAKKALE

In the morning depart for Gallipoli. Visit Anzac Cove, Lone Pine Cemetery and Chunuk Bair then cross the Dardanelles to Canakkale for overnight. (B,D)

#### Day 4 (Sunday)

## day) CANNAKALE / TROY / PERGAMON / IZMIR

Visit Troy with its famous wooden horse, best known for being the setting of the Trojan War and many cities built on top of each other. Before arriving at the Asclepion enjoy lunch with locals in a traditional village. Then continue to Pergamum to visit the ancient Asclepion Medical Centre and continue to Izmir for overnight. (B,L) *Optional: Dinner at local restaurant.* 

## Day 5 (Monday) IZMIR / EPHESUS & VIRGIN MARY'S HOUSE / IZMIR

Tour the famous ruins of Ephesus, an important cultural centre of the ancient world, and explore 2,000 year-old marble streets, a theatre, the Library of Celsus, a gymnasium and Hadrian's Temple. Take a short drive to see the stone cottage where it is believed Virgin Mary spent her last years accompanied by St. John. Continue to a regional rug production centre to have a firsthand experience of this unique art form. (B,D)

## Day 6 (Tuesday) IZMIR / BODRUM

After breakfast drive to Bodrum to visit the castle of St. Peter and the renowned Underwater Museum that was awarded the best Underwater Museum of the World in 2000's. Overnight in Bodrum. (B,D)

## Day 7 (Wednesday) BODRUM / KOS / BODRUM

After breakfast, free time for personal activities. Optional: Day tour to Kos. Dinner and overnight Bodrum. (B)

#### Day 8 (Thursday)

#### **BODRUM / MARMARIS**

After breakfast depart for Marmaris; rest of your day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

#### Day 9 (Friday)

#### MARMARIS

After breakfast, your day is at leisure for optional activities. (B)

## Day 10 (Saturday) MARMARIS / CRUISE

Depart early for Marmaris pier to board your gulet at 1530. You will have time for visiting the old town and bazaar of Marmaris with its small streets and hundreds of shops, bar and restaurants. The castle of Marmaris lies on the old town hill and offers a beautiful view across the harbor. Dinner and overnight in Marmaris. (B,D)









#### **EKINCIK GULF / DALYAN**

After breakfast you will be informed about the cruise itinerary and boat. The cruise will move towards Ekincik Gulf and overnight stay will be in this beautiful gulf. Optional: Dalyan excursion, you will be taken from the yacht with a smaller boat called "Piyade" which will bring you into the green delta of Dalyan through the Lycain Rock Tombs. You may see the Caretta-Caretta turtles on the way if you are lucky. You will have a swimming stop at a unique place called Caretta-Caretta beach. There will be a mud bath occasion on the way back. Final destination before getting on the boat will be the village of Dalyan. (B,L,D)

#### Day 12 (Monday)

#### SUNKEN BATH / TERSANE ISLAND / KIZIL ISLAND

Because of the wavy seas of Disibilmez and Kurtoglu capes that we have to cross, we will cruise earlier than the other days and reach the world-famous Gocek Gulf. We will anchor at Sunken Bath for breakfast and swimming break. This place is also known as Cleopatra bay or Sunken Bath Bay due to the beautiful underwater ruins of an old bath. Then we will cruise to Tersane Island. This naturally protected harbor was used as a shipyard in Byzantine and Ottoman times. Dinner and overnight stay will be at Kizil Island. (B,L,D)

## Day 13 (Tuesday) FETHIYE / CAPPADOCIA

Leave the boat and transfer to the Dalaman airport for a flight to Cappadocia. Dinner and overnight. (B,D)

#### Day 14 (Wednesday) CAPPADOCIA

Early Morning Optional: Balloon Tour, experience floating through volcanic valleys, fairy chimneys and caves at sunrise. After breakfast visit historical Goreme, located among the rock formations, which was first settled in the Roman period. Many rock churches can still be seen today as Christianity was then the prevailing religion in the region. Continue to the town of Avanos renowned for its high quality earthenware. Also visit Pasabagi, Devrent Valley and attend a brief regional pottery workshop. Dinner at a special local restaurant. Evening optional: Join a Whirling Dervishes performance. (B,D)

#### Day 15 (Thursday) CAPPADOCIA / ISTANBUL

After breakfast, depart to the airport for a flight to Istanbul. *Afternoon Optional: half day Bosphorus Cruise, enjoying the strait that separates Asia and Europe. Its shores are lined with fine neighbourhoods, Ottoman palaces, fortresses, old wooden villas, hotels, parks and gardens, restaurants and cafes.* Finish your last minute shopping in the Spice Market filled with the fragrance of the exotic East. Tonight enjoy a farewell dinner. (B,D)

#### Day 16 (Friday)

DEPART ISTANBUL

After breakfast, transfer to the airport (B) END OF TOUR.

(B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)

2021 Departure Dates	Per Person	Per Person
Thursdays	in Double	in Single
April: 1, 15, 29 May: 13, 27 June: 10, 24 July: 8, 22 August: 5, 19 September: 2, 30	AUD 3470	AUD 4900

Tour Includes: Accommodation in listed hotels (or similar); Daily breakfast, 9 dinners & 3 lunches; Arrival (day 1) & departure (day 16) transfers from and to airport;

Flights Dalaman – Cappadocia / Cappadocia – Istanbul; Tourist class 3 night Gulet Cruise; Licensed English speaking guides and entrance fees;

Air-conditioned vehicles; Luggage handling; Local taxes and service charges

Historical and boutique first class hotels with private facilities used (or similar): Istanbul – Sofitel M Gallery, Canakkale – Assos Kervansaray, Izmir – Swissotel Grand Efes, Bodrum – Doria, Marmaris – Elite World, Cappadocia – Gamirasu

THE OPERATOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER HOTELS AND ITINERARY IF NECESSARY



