

Western and Central Turkey Train Journey.



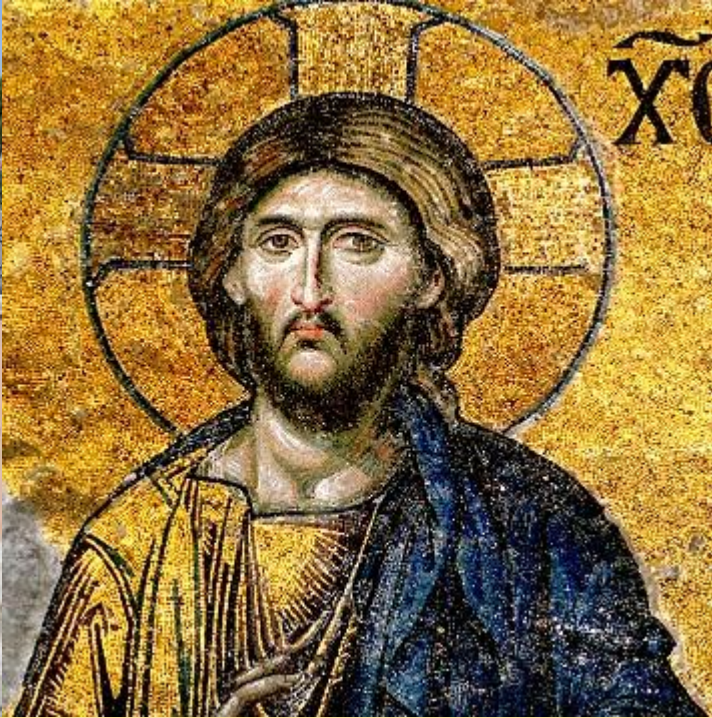
Tour Programme:

Day 1. Private transfer from Istanbul Ataturk Airport to Turkoman Hotel BB (or similar)

You will be met at the airport and brought in a private vehicle to your hotel. Depending on your flight time you will be able to stroll around the ancient hippodrome, before dinner in one of the many excellent restaurants in the area.

Day 2. Walking tour of sites of Istanbul. Turkoman Hotel BB (or similar)

Starting straight from the hotel, you walk to the **Hippodrome**, centre of the sometimes gruesome history of Constantinople, where the chariot races which enthralled the population were held, and where Emperor Justinian's great general Bellisarius massacred the people during the Nika riots. The Hippodrome is decorated with obelisks from ancient Egypt brought by Constantine to decorate his new Rome.



Right on the hippodrome, you will visit the **Blue mosque**, one of the finest examples of Ottoman building skills, the last great mosque of the classical period decorated with the blue tiles that give it its colloquial name.

Continuing your tour of the great places of worship, cross the square to visit **Hagia Sophia**, the Byzantine church built in 576 AD, which dwarfed all other buildings in the world for hundreds of years.

You will complete your day with a visit to the atmospheric **Basilica Cisterns**, built to ensure the huge city of Constantinople had enough water stored to withstand a long siege. This ancient cistern was only discovered recently and still supports the modern buildings built above it on its hundreds of classical columns.

Day 3. Topkapi Palace and Bosphorus cruise. Turkoman Hotel BB (or similar)

Visit **Topkapi Palace**, the sumptuous, but tastefully un-extravagant home of the Ottoman Sultans, and their private quarters know as the **Harem**, subject of much erotic fascination in the west.

After lunch, take the tram down to Eminönü and look at **Sirkeci station**, the terminus of the **Orient Express** and board one of the cruise boats which ply the historical **Bosphorus**, where Europe meets Asia, and where the Mediterranean meets the Black sea, viewing wooden mansions, castles and Ottoman Palaces, as well as the military hospital where Florence Nightingale famously worked.



Day 4. High Speed train to Eskişehir, Pamukkale Express to Pamukkale. Hal-Tur Hotel BB

After a leisurely breakfast you will be picked up from the hotel and whisked across the **Bosphorus bridge** to the Pendik high speed station on the Asian side of Istanbul. Boarding the 1st class carriage, you will be taken in comfort and speed to Eskişehir, where you will change to the more sedate Pamukkale express which will take you south across Turkey's steppelands before descending to the Meander valley. You will be met at Denizli station and taken the short distance Pamukkale. Night in Hal-Tur hotel or similar. BB.



Day 5. Visit Pamukkale and Hierapolis. Evening train to Selçuk. Bella Hotel BB

Visit the unique UNESCO site of **Pamukkale/ Hierapolis**. Taking your shoes off, you will walk from your hotel up through the white pools and frozen waterfalls of this 'one in the world' natural phenomenon. The evaporation of thousands of years of mineral rich waters has left this gleaming white monument to nature's variety. You can bathe in the 'travertine' pools or in the deep sparkling waters of **Cleopatras Bath**. After this you will walk around the extensive site of Hierapolis, the Phrygian/ Roman city which was built above, and because of the spring waters here. The Ancient theatre is one of the finest in anywhere, the Necropolis

is one of the largest and most varied (try to find the tomb of the engineer-inventor of the crank and rod mechanism).

In early evening you will be transferred to the station, and descend down the Meander valley to Selçuk. Bella Hotel or similar.

Day 6 Ephesus tour, Train to Izmir, Sleeper train to Konya

We will deliver you to the upper gate of Ephesus from where you will walk the streets that have seen visitors like yourself by for 25 centuries. Visit the Terrace Houses to see the opulent life led by (some) people in Roman times, before visiting the huge theatre, Library of Celcus and even the Public Latrines. You will really get a feel for the lifes that went on in this huge harbour town. From here, take a walking tour, first to the site of the famous Temple of Artemis., and then the newly renovated Museum of Ephesus. continuing our walk back to the station to get the train to Izmir.

You can have dinner and a few drinks in Izmir, before boarding the Konya **Sleeper train** 21:10. First class 2 berth sleeper compartments. Singles available.



Day 7. Day tour of Konya. Night in Mesnevi Hotel (or similar) BB

Arrive in Konya at 09:00. You can have **breakfast** on the train before a very short transfer to Mesnevi Hotel.

Tour the Mevlana Museum, lunch in local café, Karatay Madrassa, Allaeddin Keykubad Mosque, and Tile Museum. **If you are here on Saturday do not miss the Whirling Dervish ceremony!**



Day 8. Travel to Cappadocia. Night in Cave Hotel BB

After **breakfast** you will be met by your driver and are taken by private car to **Çatal Höyük**, know as the oldest town on earth. From there you stop at the grand caravansary at **Sultanhani** before continuing on to **İhlara Valley** where we have a **light trek** in the church lined valley, before continuing on to your hotel in the centre of Cappadocia.



Day 9. Walking tour of Cappadocia. Night in Cave Hotel BB

After **breakfast**, a you can take a walking tour **walking** tour 14 Km approx of **Üçisar**, Pidgeon valley ,Göreme and **Göreme open air museum, Zelve**.



Day 10. A day in Cappadocia. Night in Cave Hotel BB

Use this day to peruse the different aspects of life modern and ancient in Cappadocia.

You can visit an underground city, Take an early morning Balloon flight top see this unforgettable landscape from a different landscape. Try some of the famous wines of Cappadocia at one of the local wineries, or visit the potters' workshops of the banks of the Red river at Avanos.

Day 11. Shared transfer to Kayseri or Nevşehir airports.

We will have you taken to the nearby airports for a time that suits your travel plans.

Includes:

Guiding in Istanbul (2 days) Guiding in Pamukkale, Ephesus, on the drive to Cappadocia, and 1 days in Cappadocia. Total 6 day guiding by professional English-speaking tour guide.

All entrance fees to sites mentioned, if Guiding and entrance fee package included.

9 Breakfasts, Train tickets, transfers, detailed travel notes.

All transfers & transportation with A/C Comfortable Vehicle with professional driver per itinerary
Accompany Professional English speaking tour guide

Price does not include:

International air ticket

Tip of guides & drivers

Extra Meals

Extra services that not included in above.

