

11-DAY CAPPADOCIA & AEGEAN RHAPSODY VIA THE CORINTH CANAL CRUISE TOUR

Istanbul to Athens

PRE CRUISE LAND TOUR - 3 DAYS



HAND PAINTED IZNIK TILES IN DEEP LAPIS LAZULI, turquoise, emerald, and coral. Fairy chimneys of taupe and burnt umber. The white, charcoal, and Aegean blue palette of Santorini. On this journey through Turkey and Greece you may expand on your list of favorite new places, and even add new favorite colors, aromas, and flavors. Istanbul is your portal to this sensory world, with its Ottoman mosques, sultans' palaces, Grand Bazaar and Spice Bazaar. Cappadocia's weird landscape of rock pillars and subterranean homes is next, followed by a string of pearls. Sparkling Aegean isles, the marble ruins of Ephesus, an ancient oracle, a Trojan horse. And while larger ships must go around, you cut straight through the narrow Corinth Canal to Athens, one of the world's oldest cities, and some say one of the finest.

Please note: Bring your hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, insect repellent, and comfortable walking shoes. This tour is not wheelchair accessible and is not suitable for people with mobility issues. Order of sites visited may vary based on availability and dates.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 3 hotel stays – 1-night accommodation at Pera Palace Hotel in a Deluxe Golden Horn Room, 2-night accommodations at Argos in Cappadocia in a Stone Standard Room
- Daily breakfast
- Lunch at Sira Restaurant in Cappadocia
- Domestic flights Istanbul to Kayseri and Kayseri to Istanbul (Turkish Airlines - Economy Class)
- All transfers to and from the airport, to and from sites and to the ship
- 2 full days and 1/2 day sightseeing in a luxury air conditioned vehicle with a professional driver and English-speaking tour guide
- Entrance fees to Ayasofya, Blue Mosque, Kaymakli Underground City, Grand Bazaar, Goreme Open-Air Museum, Spice Market
- 9-day cruise round trip from Istanbul

DAY TO DAY – PRE CRUISE LAND TOUR



DAY 1 – Istanbul, Turkey

Arrive in the city of many names – Istanbul, Constantinople, Byzantium. Meet your guide at the airport and take in the sights on your way to the Pera Palace Hotel, a 5-star historic hotel originally built to host passengers on the Orient Express. (It's said that Agatha Christie wrote *Murder on the Orient Express* in Room 411 during one of her visits.) Spend the rest of the day as you wish. Browse the shops and cafes on pedestrian-only Istiklal Street near your hotel before dinner on your own. We suggest the elegant Mikla Restaurant on the roof of the Marmara Pera hotel just across the street, which has been on The World's 50 Best Restaurants list since 2015.

(Includes overnight at Pera Palace Hotel.)



DAY 2 – Istanbul and Cappadocia

Istanbul's historic center is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman wonders keep your head on a swivel. Visit landmarks from chariot grounds to the Blue Mosque, Ayasofya (formerly Hagia Sophia) Mosque and the Grand Bazaar before heading to the airport. A short flight finds you in Kayseri and soon you're relaxing at the Argos in Cappadocia Hotel, your home for the next two nights. Enjoy dinner on your own then rest up for a busy tomorrow.

(Includes breakfast, flight and overnight at Argos in Cappadocia Hotel.)



DAY 3 – Cappadocia, Turkey

Breakfast at the hotel then meet your guide for a transfer to Kaymakli Underground City. Early Christians carved some amazing living quarters out of this soft limestone as you'll see there, a complex of living quarters and stables five levels below ground. The Goreme Valley is known as the valley of the churches, with some dating back to the 6th century. And not just any churches – these are rock-cut churches complete with beautiful wall frescoes. You'll see several at the Goreme Open-Air Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lunch will be served at the unique Sira Restaurant then meet pottery artisans in the pretty town of Avanos on your way to the Devrent and Pasabag Valleys with their thrilling otherworldly landscapes. Then return to the hotel for dinner on your own.

(Includes breakfast, lunch and overnight at Argos in Cappadocia Hotel.)



DAY 4 – Cappadocia and Istanbul

After an early breakfast, fly back to Istanbul for a sense-swirling experience at the Spice Bazaar, also known as the Egyptian Bazaar. Built in 1663, it's the second largest covered bazaar in Turkey and the best place to buy Turkish delight, dried fruit, exotic herbs, and all the spices of the East including cardamom, turmeric, saffron, rose water, and much more. The colors of the spices and sounds of the merchants are as intoxicating as the aromas. At the end of the visit, transfer to the port and embark on your waiting yacht.

(Includes breakfast and flight to Istanbul.)



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