

Istanbul City Break

Country(ies): Turkey

Tour type: City Break

Transport: A/C minibus

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 20

Days: 4 days

Start Location: Istanbul, Turkey

End Location: Istanbul, Turkey

Meals: Breakfasts - 3, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 0

Highlights:

Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace,
Hippodrome, the Grand Bazaar, Bosphorous cruise,
panoramic views from Camlica Hill



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Istanbul, transfer to hotel

Welcome to Istanbul! On arrival we'll meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel in the centre of the city. The rest of the day is free to settle in and start exploring.

OVERNIGHT: Istanbul hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Single Room Supplement (TUTMIB) Extra day in Istanbul - pre-tour

Day 2: Istanbul, old city tour

Today we enjoy a full day city tour with a specialist local guide. We'll take in the beautiful Blue Mosque, and Hagia Sophia, sometimes described as the 8th Wonder of the World. This beautiful building, famous for its huge dome, was built as a Greek Orthodox cathedral in the 6th Century when Istanbul was still known as Constantinople, before becoming an Imperial Ottoman mosque, and now a museum. We'll also visit the Topkapi Palace (closed Tuesdays), which was the residence of the Ottoman Sultans in the 16th Century, and see the remains of the ancient Hippodrome. Our final visit is to Istanbul's Grand Bazaar (closed Sundays) which is one of the world's largest covered markets, and home to thousands of shops and stalls covering nearly 60 blocks. We may also have time to visit a carpet shop and learn how carpets are made by hand.

OVERNIGHT: Istanbul hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Bosphorous river cruise and Asian Istanbul

Istanbul, formerly Constantinople, has been a vitally important world city for many centuries due to its strategic location connecting Europe and Asia, and the Mediterranean and Black Seas. These are joined by a narrow strait of water called the Bosphorous, with the city spreading out from both banks. Today we'll take a boat cruise along the Bosphorous, seeing both the European and Asian sides, and learn more about the history of this fascinating city. In the afternoon we'll take a walk up to Camlica Hill on the Asian side of the city and enjoy its panoramic views.

The rest of the afternoon and evening are then free for you to explore the city more.

OVERNIGHT: Istanbul hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Istanbul, free time, transfer to airport

Your time in Istanbul is free today until we transfer you back to the airport for your departure. A range of optional tours are available today if you have a late afternoon or evening flight, or if you would like to extend your stay.

OVERNIGHT: N/A

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Extra day in Istanbul - post-tour

Included:

- 3 nights hotel accommodation (upgrades available)
- Daily breakfast
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Specialist local guide for sightseeing tours
- Entrance fees to various sites
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (3 breakfasts)
- Tipping kitty

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (e-visa available online before travel)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for guide & driver
- Any other items not mentioned above

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Single Room Supplement (TUTMIB)

Min numbers: 1

Due to the style and nature of this tour, we do not arrange room shares between people not travelling together. This option therefore provides a single room in all the accommodation throughout the tour and should be added by all solo travellers.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

Istanbul Cooking Class

Min numbers: 1

Uncover the secrets of traditional Turkish cuisine with a local chef in the hotel kitchen. You'll create, cook, and then enjoy your own Turkish meal, all while taking in a stunning rooftop view.

Tour includes Transportation in a fully air-conditioned, Pick up & drop off from/to your Istanbul hotel, English speaking chef and cooking class.

Note: A minimum of 2 passenger are required for this option to operate.

1. Group Size / Tour Leaders / Guides

This tour is offered both as a small group departure, starting on Fridays with a maximum of 20 people per group, and also as a private tour available on any other dates. The two sightseeing tours are arranged on a sharing basis if you have booked a private tour, though they can be converted into private tours as well if you wish. Please contact us for details and prices.

In Turkey we provide a fully trained, local English-speaking guide for all of the sightseeing tours. Our local reps in some of the towns and cities en-route are also at your service. At Encounters Travel we try to use local Turkish guides and reps as much as possible. We feel this gives you the best experience of the country and the sites you are seeing.

2. Dates & Prices

This tour is available all year round, with group departures starting on Fridays and private departures available starting on any day of the week. Pricing is seasonal and is based on a minimum of 2 people travelling.

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Note: Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
