

# Turkey – Istanbul and the ancient Aegean

Tour Code TC

A comprehensive week tour that combines the outstanding architectural treasures of Turkey's past ancient capital with its remarkably well preserved classical sites along the Aegean coast. In the company of expert Turkish guide; *Dr Fatih Babaoglu*, we discover the fabulous ancient architectural wonders of Istanbul, including Hagia Sofia and the Blue Mosque, and the remarkable classical sites of Troy, Aphrodisias and Ephesus. Our journey also includes the 14<sup>th</sup> century Ottoman capital of Bursa with its impressive Islamic treasures and a tour of the Gallipoli battlefield, scene of the aborted Allied invasion of 1915.



The Library of Celsus, Ephesus  
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## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Fly to Istanbul

Departure from T3 London Heathrow with Turkish Airlines flight TK1980 at 1600 to Istanbul, once ancient capital of Turkey. 2150 arrival and transfer a centrally located 4 star hotel for two nights.

### Day 2 In Istanbul

We have a morning city tour of Istanbul including Hagia Sofia, built as a church by Emperor Justinian in the 6th century, the Blue Mosque with its exquisite blue tiles, and the Hippodrome. This afternoon we begin at the unique underground basilica cisterns before relaxing on a ferry trip along the Bosphorus. Welcome dinner in a typical local restaurant (B,D)

### Day 3 Drive to Bursa. City tour

Today we venture south to explore the ancient city of Bursa, the 14th century Ottoman capital. Relics of these glory days are bountiful throughout the city including the spectacular 20 domes of the Great Mosque, the delicate marble of the Yesil Cami Mosque, and the silver-domed tomb of Osman Gazi. Overnight at a comfortable and well located 4 star hotel (B)

### Day 4 Visit Gallipoli

Morning drive to Canakkale located on the narrow stretch of the Dardenelles. Tour of the Gallipoli battlefield, scene of the aborted Allied invasion of 1915. Visit Cape Helles, Suvla Bay and Anzac Cove. Overnight in Cannakale at a comfortable and well located 3 star hotel (B)

**Patrick Syder Travel**

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### **Day 5 Visit Troy and Pergamon**

Depart from Canakkale and drive to Izmir stopping en route to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Troy discovered by the controversial German Archaeologist Henrich Schliemann in 1871. We continue to Pergamon for a tour of the historic town, including visits to the Acropolis, the Asclepion and the Red Basilica. Overnight in Izmir at a comfortable and well located three star hotel (B)

### **Day 6 Visit Aphrodisias**

We drive to Aphrodisias, one of the most beautiful classical sites in Turkey and certainly its most well preserved. Our tour includes the once-famous Temple of Aphrodite and the most complete Stadium, 270 metres long, to have survived from the ancient world. We continue to Kusadasi for a two night stay at a comfortable and well located three star hotel (B)

### **Day 7 Visit Ephesus and Priene**

We have a half day tour of Ephesus, the best preserved classical city in the Eastern Mediterranean and once the main city of the Roman province of Asia. Here we see one of the original Seven Wonders of the World; the Temple of Artemis, as well as the Great Theatre and Library of Celsus. In the late afternoon we have a visit to the Ionian hillside town of Priene to see one of the best preserved examples of an Hellenistic theatre. We have a farewell dinner at a typical local restaurant in Kusadasi (B,D)

### **Day 8 Drive to Izmir. Fly UK**

After breakfast we transfer to Izmir airport for the 1000 flight TK2313 with Turkish Airlines to Istanbul connecting with the TK1985 at 1235 to London Heathrow. We arrive into T3 Heathrow airport at 1435 (B)

**Cost £995.00** per person in twin room (excludes international flight)

Single supplement charge £200.00



#### **Price includes –**

- ▶ Tour accompanied by Patrick Syder FRGS
- ▶ Specialist Turkish guide Dr Fatih Babaoglu
- ▶ All transportation - private a/c minibus
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Four star hotel in Istanbul and Bursa, comfortable three star hotel elsewhere
- ▶ Two quality restaurant dinners in Istanbul and Kusadasi
- ▶ Turkish Airlines flight airport transfer
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, international and domestic Turkish Airline flights are not included in the land tour cost (from £180.00 through Flight Centre UK) (Included meals denoted by B Breakfast, L Lunch, D Dinner)