



Mavi Marmara Inc., 1912, La Brisa Drive, Bryan, Texas, 77807, USA
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Istanbul Transit Tour (3 nights/4 days)

Day 1 - Arrival at Istanbul Airport: You will be received by a friendly Mavi Tour representative to drive you to the hotel.

Stay at Great Fortune Design Hotel, a 4-star hotel located in the old city and at walking distance for most of the historical sites. <https://greatfortunehotels.com>. Stay in a single, double, or triple bedroom with breakfast. Or similar hotels depending on the availability at the time of booking.

No tour will be organized this day for you to rest, relax and overcome the jet lag. You are free to explore the city or nearby places to hotel on your own.

Day 2 - Istanbul

Pick up from the hotel after breakfast at 9.00am. An English-speaking tour guide will be available to today to visit the following sites:

- **Topkapi Palace Museum:** This palace was built in 1460 by Fatih Sultan Mehmet, the conqueror of Istanbul. It is used as an official administration center and residence of the sultans with separate quarters for women called “Harem”. In 1856 the sultans moved to Dolmabahce. *Closed on Tuesday’s alternately you will be visiting the Dolmabahce palace.*
- **Hagia Sophia:** This structure was built in 537 by Byzantine Emperor Justinian as basilica which was converted to a mosque in 1453 when Sultan Mehmet captured Istanbul in 1453, Ata Turk converted this into a museum in 1935 and again in 2019 it was converted into a mosque.
- **Blue Mosque:** The Blue Mosque (Called Sultanahmet Camii in Turkish) was built during the reign of Sultan Ahmet in 1616. It is also known as Blue Mosque because of blue tiles surrounding the walls of interior design.
- **Hippodrome:** Built by Roman Emperor Severus in early 3rd Century. The Byzantine emperors loved nothing more than an afternoon at the chariot races, and this rectangular arena alongside Sultanahmet Park was their venue of choice. In its heyday, it was decorated by obelisks and statues, some of which remain in place today.

- **Cistern:** This underground water storage system was built by the Byzantine Emperor Constantine in the 4th Century to supply water to the city of Constantinople. The water was transported from the Belgrade Forest by the immense aqueducts.
- **Hodjapasha:** The SEMA ceremony is a spiritual journey of whirling dervishes for divine love. Starts at 7.00pm to last for one hour.

Lunch break: 12.00- 13.00. After the show you can walk back to the hotel.

Day 3 - Istanbul

Pick up from the hotel after breakfast at 9.00am to visit the historical sites of:

- **Covered Market:** Covered Bazar built in 15th century, is the oldest covered market in the world covering an area of 55,000 sq. meters having around 4,000 shops. It has 21 gates, 51 streets and around 4,000 shops selling all type of items including tiles, ceramics, gold, silver, leather goods, carpets, and kilims and many more gift items. Half a day. *Closed on Sundays, an alternate could be to visit the spice market.*
- **Dolmabahce Palace:** Dolmabahçe Palace was built between years 1843-1856 by the Empire's 31st Sultan Abdulmecid I at cost of \$1.9 billion. The palace was home to six Sultans from 1856, when it was first inhabited, up until the abolition of the Caliphate in 1924. Atatürk spent the last days of his medical treatment in this palace, where he died on November 10, 1938. It has 285 rooms, 46 halls, 6 baths and 68 toilets. The world's largest Bohemian crystal chandelier is in the Ceremonial Hall having 750 lamps and weighs 4.5 tonnes. Dolmabahçe has the largest collection of Bohemian and Baccarat crystal chandeliers in the world. *Closed on Mondays, alternately you will be visiting the Topkapi palace.*
- **Istiklal (walking) street at Taksim and Galata Tower:** İstiklal Avenue, historically known as the Grand Avenue of Pera is one of the most famous avenues in Istanbul, Turkey, visited by nearly 3 million people in a single day over the course of weekends. It is a 1,5 km. long colorful pedestrian street and grand boulevard cutting through Beyoğlu and full of all kinds of shops, restaurants, cafes, street shows and it is located by the Taksim Square. The nostalgic tram runs through the length of the İstiklal Street.

Drop back to the hotel by 7.00pm, if you prefer to stay longer on İstiklal street take a cab for the hotel.

Da 4 – Istanbul / Istanbul Airport

Depart for the Istanbul Airport. Time to be decided depending on the flight timings.

END OF THE TOUR

Price

| | Number of Persons | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | | | | |
| Adults Over 11 Years | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| US Dollars Per Person | 680.00 | 585.00 | 570.00 | 530.00 | 500.00 |
| Children 7-11 Years | 500.00 | 440.00 | 425.00 | 400.00 | 375.00 |

Children under 6: Free

- **Payment:** The full amount needs to be paid 10 days prior to the start of the tour.
- **Refund:** A full refund will be issued (excluding bank fees) if the cancellation is made 3 days prior to the start of the tour. No refund be made if the cancellation occurs within 3 days from the start of the tour.

Inclusions:

- Hotel accommodation in Istanbul for 3 nights with Bed and Breakfast.
- Transportation by luxury air-conditioned Van or minibus including pick and drop from/to the airport and sightseeing.
- A qualified/Licensed English-speaking tour guide will be provided for one day in Istanbul.
- Museum entrance fees.
- Dervish dance.
- Help desk located in Istanbul speaking English, Turkish, Urdu, and Hindi languages will be available to assist you at cell number +90 533 634 95 15.

Exclusions:

- Air ticket from/to from your home country to the destination.
- Visa and related expenses
- Lunches and Dinners and drinks
- Tips to the driver
- Medical Insurance and cost incurred due to medical condition and emergency medical treatment.
- Force majeure

Notes:

- We strongly advise you to get Travel Insurance policy to safeguard against any contingencies.
- We also advise you to take care of your personal belongings, Mavi Tours is not responsible for the loss of baggage or personal items during the duration of the tour.
- Please give tips to the supporting staff including concierge at the hotel, driver, and other staff for helping you with the luggage and other support services provided. It is normal practice in Turkey to give a tip of around 10% of the bill at the restaurants.