



Mavi Marmara Inc. DBA: Mavi Tours

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Explore Turkey
Monthly Group Tours March to October 2023
6 Cities-9 Days/8 nights
Istanbul, Cappadocia, Konya, Antalya, Pamukkale & Bursa.

Departure from USA: The Tours starts from Saturday; you have to take a flight on Thursday to reach Istanbul on Friday and join the tour.

Day-1: Arrival in Istanbul

On arrival at Istanbul Airport from your departing city in USA, you will be received by our representative to be transferred to the hotel. (Refer the last page of this program to see from which cities, Turkish Airlines flies directly to Istanbul).

Brief about Istanbul: A Cradle of Civilization

The foundation of İstanbul (Constantinople) was laid in 330 AD. Also called City of Seven Hills, Istanbul is the largest city and the country's economic, cultural, and historical center. Istanbul is the only city in the world which straddles two continents, Europe, and Asia, divided by the strait of Bosphorus. Istanbul, the cradle of civilization that served as the capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires for 16 centuries, continues to be the all-time center of attraction with its unique history.

Help desk located in Istanbul speaking English, Turkish, Urdu, and Hindi languages will be available to assist you throughout your stay in Türkiye at cell number +90 533 634 95 15.

Stay at Dedeman Hotel, Istanbul, a 5-star Hotel (Bed and Breakfast) in double bedroom with two single beds. (Or similar hotels depending on the availability at the time of booking).
<https://www.dedeman.com/EN/7-Oteller/8-Dedeman-Istanbul/>

After rest at around 20.00 hours, we will take you to visit Ortakoy for dinner and shopping. (3 hours). The tour will end by 23.00 hours.

About Ortaköy:

Ortaköy is a lively area centered on its waterfront square, where crowds gather to listen to impromptu concerts or sip tea on cafe terraces. Stands serving waffles or kumpir (stuffed baked potatoes) share busy alleys with souvenir stalls. The ornate, light filled Ortaköy Camii mosque sits at the water's edge in the shadow of the Bosphorus Bridge. After dark, upmarket restaurants and clubs nearby draw a chic crowd.

Day-2: Istanbul

After the breakfast at 9.30 you will be picked from the hotel to visit the old City area Sultan Ahmet:

Note that you must walk around these areas as no cars are allowed. An English-speaking tour guide will be available for this day.

- **Topkapi Palace:** 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. 2 hours
- **Highia Sophia mosque:** 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. 1 ½ hours
- **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. ½ hour
- **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. (Under renovation, entrance could be restricted. Planned to be opened some time in March 2023)- ½ hours.
- **Covered market:** Covered Bazar built in 15th century, is the oldest covered market in the world having 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. 2 hours.



Topkapi Palace

Lunch break from 14.00 to 14.30 hours.

Leave Covered market by 19.00 hours for Bosphorous cruise dinner at 8.00pm lasting for about 2 ½ hours. Drop you back at the hotel after the cruise at about 23.30 hours.



Bosporous Cruise

Day-3: Istanbul/Cappadocia

(Check out from the hotel in the morning as we will be leaving for Cappadocia in the evening)

After the breakfast at 9.00 you will be picked from the hotel to visit the following sites. An English-speaking tour guide will be available for this day.

- **Camlica Mosque:** the largest mosque in Europe on the Asian side of Istanbul- 1 hour
- **Dolmabahçe palace:** Dolmabahçe Palace was built between years 1843-1856 by the Empire's 31st Sultan Abdulmecid I. The palace was home to six Sultans from 1856, when it was first inhabited, up until the abolition of the Caliphate in 1924. 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. 2 hours
- **Istiklal Street:** 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 Beyoglu 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 Istiklal Street.- 3 hours

Leave at 17.00 hours for Istanbul airport to catch a flight to Kayseri TK2232 at 20.15 to arrive at 21.35 hours. Pick up from the airport on way to Cappadocia. Have dinner at a restaurant in Kayseri.



Dolmabahce Palace

Stay at Crowne Plaza Cappadocia, a 5-star hotel, in a double bedroom-two single beds with breakfast, or similar hotels depending on the availability at the final booking date of the tour.

<https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/gb/en/navnc/navnc/hoteldetail>



Discover the fairy tale landscape of the Cappadocia region

About Cappadocia:

A geological peculiarity, world heritage site and area of exceptional natural wonders, the fairy tale landscapes of Cappadocia fire the imagination like nowhere else in Türkiye or the world. A fascinating history, and topography of honeycombed hills, unfathomably large boulders, and rock formations define this area of Anatolia in central Türkiye. Thousands of years ago, people carved a tunnel and chamber complex into the soft rock and in the 4th century, an underground urbanization was created here. The landscape is a honeycomb of man-made caves, places to live, work, and worship. Entire towns were formed by tunnel complexes.

There are many popular attractions in Cappadocia such as fresco adorned churches chiseled out of rock, fairy chimneys, as well as the open-air museum in Goreme. Subterranean (Underground) cities of Kaymakli and rock fortress of Ortahisar are also among the most visited sites in Cappadocia. A truly unique hospitality experience.

Day-4: Cappadocia

Hot Air Balloon on ride (**optional**).

Pick up time for hot air balloon ride is 5.00am in the morning and the tour will last for about 3 hours including departure from the hotel and back with one hour balloon ride and breakfast. Drop back to the hotel around 8.00am. *(This is optional for which the price is not included in the package, please inform us in advance if you want to have confirm booking.)*

At 9.30 you will be picked from the hotel to visit the following places. An English-speaking tour guide will be available for this day.

- **Underground city of Derinkuyu:** Kaymakli underground city is built under the hill known as the Citadel of Kaymakli and was opened to visitors in 1964. While the underground city consists of 8 floors below ground, only 4 of them are open to the public today, in which the spaces are organized around ventilation shafts.
- **Churches of Goreme Open-Air Museum:** The Goreme Open-Air Museum resembles a vast monastic complex composed of scores of refectory monasteries placed side-by-side, each with its own fantastic church.
- **Fairy chimneys:** There are thousands of fairy chimneys exist on the tuffaceous volcanic soil of Cappadocia. Mostly observed in the valleys of the triangle Avanos-Ürgüp-Uçhisar.
- **Uchisar Rock Citadel:** It is dominated by a 60-metre-high 'castle' which is actually a rock formation visible over a wide distance. Uçhisar Kalesi (Uçhisar Castle) is crisscrossed by numerous underground passageways and rooms, which are now mostly blocked or impassable but which served as residential areas and, perhaps, cloisters in Byzantine times.
- **Villages of Cavusin and Avanos:** Traditional Pottery Workshop worth visiting.
- **Dervish Dance:** Starting at 6.00 PM for an hour at Saruhan Caravan Sarayı built in 1249 during the Selcuk rule in Anatolia by Izzettin Keykavus II.

Lunch break from 13.30 to 14.30.

At 5.30pm we will leave for the Dervish dance at Saruhan Caravan Sarayı starting at 6.00pm to last for one hour. Have dinner on way back to the hotel.

About Underground cities:

This is an ancient multi-level underground city, extending to a depth of approximately 85 metres (279 ft). It is large enough to have sheltered as many as 20,000 people together with their livestock and food stores. It is the largest excavated underground city in Türkiye and is one of several underground complexes found throughout Cappadocia. Caves might have been built initially in the soft volcanic rock of the region in the 8th–7th centuries BC.

The city at Derinkuyu was fully formed in the Byzantine era, when it was heavily used as protection from Muslim Arab during the Arab-Byzantine war (780–1180 AD). The city was connected with other underground cities through many kilometers of tunnels.

These cities continued to be used by the Christian natives as protection from the Mongolian incursions of Timur in the 14th century

Day 5: Cappadocia/Konya/Antalya

Cappadocia/Konya:

Leave the hotel after breakfast at 9.00 hours for onwards drive to Konya. Its 3 ½ hours' drive and reach there by 13.00 hours. In Konya have a lunch break and visit.

- The mausoleum of Maulana Jaleddin Rumi

An English-speaking tour guide will be available for visit to the mausoleum.

Rumi, also called by the honorific **Mawlānā**, born September 30, 1207, Balkh-Afghanistan and died on December 17, 1273, Konya-Turkiye, the greatest Sufi mystic and poet, famous for his lyrics and Masnavi ("Spiritual Couplets"), which widely influenced mystical thought and literature throughout the world.

Konya/Antalya:

Leave Konya for Antalya at 15.00, it's a 4 hours' drive to reach by 20.30 hours with breaks for dinner, tea, and coffee and to freshen up.

Stay at Elysium Green Suites, Lara, a 5-star hotel (Bed and Breakfast) in a double room with two single beds. (Or similar hotels depending on the availability at the final booking date). The hotel is located at a distance of 10 minutes' walk from the famous sandy beach of Mediterranean Sea <https://elysiumgreensuites.com>

Day-6: Antalya

Pick up from hotel at 9.00 after breakfast for:

- Jeep safari-6 hours with lunch (9.00 to 15.00 Hours)

Jump into our all terrain 4×4 jeeps and get prepared to discover the natural and cultural attractions of Antalya. People of all ages are welcome to join in this full-day excursion of thrilling adventures in the Taurus Mountains. Antalya's villages, local lifestyle, and incredible natural beauty make your moments here both fun and exciting. A professional guide with you who would provide you with essential descriptions about the sights of attractions and points of interest.

After the Jeep Safari at 16.30 we will leave for:

- Old city tour.
 - Hadrian's Gate
 - Clock Tower
 - Old city walls dating back to the 2nd century.

Note that no tour guide will be available for the old city tour. Back to the hotel at 21.00 hours after dinner.

Day-7: Antalya/Pamukkale/Bursa:

Pick up from the hotel at 8.00 after breakfast for Pamukkale. It is about 3 ½ hours' drive to reach there by 12.00 hours. In Pamukkale visit the following places. Stop overs for tea, coffee and to freshen up.

- **Hierapolis:** It is the place of St. Philip's martyrdom in 80 A.D., commemorated by his Martyrium building in the 5th century, Hierapolis with its several churches became an important religious center for the Eastern Roman Empire
- **Cleopatra pool:** According to legend, this artificially sculpted pool was a gift from Marc Anthony to Cleopatra. It is actually the most famous of the Marc Anthony gifts to Cleopatra, the Egyptian Queen. It is said that the historical pool, which dates back to the 16th century, was formed by the collapse of the buildings in the region into a pit formed as a result of earthquakes, and that this pit was filled with healing and soda thermal water.
- **Travertines of Pamukkale:** Cotton castles was formed when a spring with a high content of dissolved calcium bicarbonate cascaded over the edge of the cliff, which cooled and hardened leaving calcium deposits. This formed into natural pools, shelves and ridges, which tourists could plunge and splash in the warm water.
- **Optional Paragliding: Optional:** A 45-minute paragliding is available (Not included in the price of the tour package).

About Pamukkale:

The ancient Greek city of Hierapolis was built on top of the travertine formation which is in total about 2,700 metres (8,860 ft) long, 600 m (1,970 ft) wide and 160 m (525 ft) high. It can be seen from the hills on the opposite side of the valley, this area has been drawing visitors to its thermal springs since the time of classical antiquity. The Turkish name refers to the surface of the shimmering, snow-white limestone, shaped over millennia by calcite-rich springs. Dripping slowly down the mountainside, mineral-rich waters collect in and cascade down the mineral terraces, into pools below. People have visited the area for thousands of years, due to the attraction of the thermal pools.

Around 3.00pm leave for after lunch for Bursa, it's a 5 hours' drive to reach by 10.00pm with breaks for dinner, tea, coffee and to freshen up.

Stay at Divan Hotel, a 4-star hotel, bed, and breakfast, in a two-bedroom with two single beds. (Or similar hotels depending on the availability at the final booking date).

<https://www.divan.com.tr/hotel/divan-bursa-hotel>



About Bursa

Bursa was the first capital of Ottoman Empire between 1335 and 1363. It is famous as a center of silk trade. The merchants from all over the world came to buy silk, considering it to be an extremely valuable item in Bursa's trade. The merchants of Florence occupied a special place in this trade. Currently silk fabrics are sold at Koza Han, built in 1490, next to Ulu Mosque.

Day-8: Bursa

Pick up from the hotel after breakfast at 9.30am to visit the following sites. An English-speaking tour guide will be available for the day.

- **Mausoleum of Osman Ghazi:** The founder of Ottoman empire and his son. ½ hour
- **Silk & Covered market:** One of the must-see places in Bursa is visit to the covered and silk market (Koza Han). If you want to buy silk scarfs and accessories it's a place to go and buy some beautiful pieces at great prices. 3 hours
- **Ulu Camii:** Built in 1399 "The *Ulu Camii*" or "Great Mosque" is the largest mosque in Bursa, the first capital of the Ottoman Empire, and a landmark of early Ottoman architecture evolved out of Seljuk architecture. 1 hour
- **Green Bursa Mosque:** Built in 1415, the green mosque is a brilliant example of tile art. The tiles are bluish green and decorated with turquoise ornaments. The name of the mosque 'Green' is actually coming from this mihrab. One of the most notable features in the Green Mosque is its tile mosaics. The muezzin's pulpit and Sultan's dais are decorated with exquisite tiles as well. 1 hour

Lunch break from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. Back to the hotel around 18.00.

Will take you for the dinner at 9.00pm to be back by 11.00pm. We recommend you have “Bursa Iskender Kebab” the most popular dish from Bursa.

Day-9: Bursa/Istanbul:

Leave hotel after breakfast at 9.00 am for Istanbul airport (2 hour’s drive) for onwards flight USA.

END OF THE TOUR

Notes:

1. Minimum number of persons required for this Group Tour is 20, Mavi Tours reserves the right, without recourse, to cancel the tour if the minimum number of persons are below 20. Full deposit, if paid, will be refunded in case the tour is cancelled.
2. Turkish Airlines have direct flight to Istanbul from the following cities in USA. 1)New York 2) Boston 3) Houston 4) Dallas 5) Chicago 6) Atlanta 7) Los Angeles 8) Miami 9) Newark 10) Seattle 11) San Francisco 12) Washington D.C

Price of Tour Package:

GROUP TOUR PRICING IN US DOLLARS				
MONTHS	PERSONS	DOUBLE B/R	TRIPLE B/R	SINGLE B/R
MARCH-MAY 2023	20+	1,695	1,400	2,200
JUNE-OCTOBER 2023	20+	1,750	1,550	2,400

Children under 6: \$ 150

Children 7-11 years: \$1,250

Payment Terms

- US\$ 750 nonrefundable deposit to be paid at the time of booking and the balance 10 days prior to the start of Tour. Payment can be made through electronic wire bank transfers, Zelle, money orders, cashier’s check and checks made in the name of “Mavi Tours”. We do not accept payments through credit cards.

Included in the Package:

- Pick and drop from the airport to hotel and back.
- Airfare for the local flight from Istanbul to Cappadocia. (Please note that local flights allow only 15kg of luggage plus hand carry of 8 kg.
- 9 days and 8 nights sightseeing tour of Turkiye in the cities of Istanbul, Cappadocia, Konya, Antalya, Pamukkale & Bursa.
- Travel within the cities and inter-city will be in a 26-seater luxury coach.

- An English-speaking tour guide will be available wherever it is required.
- Stay in a 5 or 4-star hotel, in a Single, double, or triple room including breakfast.
- Bosphorous cruise with dinner in Istanbul.
- Dervish dance in Cappadocia.
- Jeep safari in Antalya.
- Entrance fees at museums.

Excluded in the Package:

- Airfare from the departing city in USA to Istanbul and back.
- Travel insurance and medical treatment cost, if any, in Turkiye.
- Traveler should ensure that luggage is protected from being lost or stolen. Mavi Tour is not responsible if it is lost, misplaced, or stolen.
- Personal expenses including visa fees etc.
- Tips to the porters for loading and unloading baggage in the vehicle.
- Tips to the hotel staff for carrying the luggage to the room and back.
- Lunches and dinners except Bosphorus cruise dinner in Istanbul.
- 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.

Cancellation Policy:

In the event of cancellation of tour / travel services due to any avoidable / unavoidable reason/s we must be notified of the same in writing. Cancellation charges will be effective from the date we receive advice in writing, and cancellation charges would be as follows:

- 50% of the deposit paid, if cancellation is done after the booking date but prior to 10 working days from the start date of the travel.
- 30% of the amount paid if the cancellation is made prior to 5 working days from the start date of the travel.
- 50% of the amount paid if the cancellation is made 24 hours prior to the start of the tour.
- No refund will be made in case of “no-show”.

2023 Group Tour Dates

Saturday, March 11th to Sunday, March 19th, 2023

Saturday, April 22nd to Sunday, April 30th, 2023

Saturday, May 13th to Sunday, May 21st, 2023

Saturday, June 17th to Sunday, June 25th, 2023

Saturday, July 15th to Sunday, July 23rd, 2023

Saturday, August 19th to Sunday, August 27th, 2023

Saturday, September 16th to Sunday, September 24th, 2023

Saturday, October 14th to Sunday, October 22nd, 2023