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Explore Turkey-2024
Monthly Group Tours 12+
7 Cities-10 Days/9 nights

Istanbul, Ankara, Cappadocia, Konya, Antalya, Pamukkale & Bursa.

Departure from Home Country: The Tours starts from 2nd Saturday of each month; you have to take a flight to reach Istanbul on Friday and join the tour.

Day-1: Arrival in Istanbul

On arrival at Istanbul Airport from your departing city, you will be received by our representative to be transferred to the hotel.

Stay at Ottoman Imperial Hotel, Sultan Ahmet, Istanbul, a 4-star Hotel (Bed and Breakfast) in Single, Double or Triple bedroom with breakfast. <https://www.ottomanhotelimperial.com> located right next to Istanbul landmark of Hagia Sophia, or similar hotels available at the time of booking.

You will be on your own visit the areas around the hotel.

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.

Day-2: Istanbul

After the breakfast at 9.00 you will be picked from the hotel to visit the old City area Sultan Ahmet, with an English-speaking tour guide. All the sites to be visited are within the walking distance from the hotel.

- **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, it was converted to a mosque in 1453 when Sultan Mehmet captured Istanbul in 1453, Ataturk converted it into a museum in 1935 and again in 2019 it was converted into a mosque. 1 hours
- **Hippodrome:** Built by Roman Emperor Severus in the early 3rd century, the Hippodrome was the venue of choice for chariot races by Byzantine emperors. In its heyday, it was decorated with 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. 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.
- **Bosporous Cruise Dinner:** It’s about 3 hours cruise starting at 8.00pm with dinner, dance, and music. Drop back to the hotel after the cruise.

Lunch break between 12.00 to 13.00 hours.



Topkapi Palace



Bosporous Cruise

Day-3: Istanbul/Ankara

(Check out from the hotel in the morning as we will be leaving for Ankara 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.

- **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:** Istiklal Avenue, historically known as the Grand Avenue of Pera, is one of the most famous avenues in Istanbul, Turkey. It is visited by nearly 3 million people in a single day over the course of weekends. The avenue stretches for 1.5 km, offering a colorful pedestrian street and grand boulevard that cuts through Beyoglu. Istiklal Avenue is filled with various shops, restaurants, cafes, street shows, and is situated by Taksim Square. A nostalgic tram runs through the length of Istiklal Street. 3 hours



Dolmabahce Palace

Leave at 17.00 hours for Ankara by road to reach there by 10.00pm with stopovers for dinner and rest.

Stay at No 19 Hotel- a 4-star facility with breakfast, or similar hotels depending on the availability at the final booking date of the tour <https://www.no19hotel.com/english,11,1> or similar hotels available at the time of booking.

Day-4: Ankara/Cappadocia

Pick up from the hotel at 9.00am after breakfast to visit the Mausoleum of Ataturk. Stay there for about 2 hours and leave for Cappadocia at around 11.30am. Reach Cappadocia by 17.00 hours with stopovers for lunch and rest. Stay at Aja Cave Hotel and nearby cave hotels with breakfast, depending on the availability at the final booking date of the tour. <https://www.ajacappadocia.com>

Walk and explore the areas around the hotel and to have dinner.



Discover the fairy tale landscape of the Cappadocia region

Day-5: Cappadocia

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

Pick up time for hot air balloon ride between 5.00-6.00am in the morning lasting 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.

Day 6: Cappadocia/Konya/Antalya:

If you miss the balloon ride a day earlier you can have it today

Cappadocia/Konya:

Leave the hotel after breakfast at 9.30 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 Jelaleddin 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 15.30, 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 Best Western Hotel, a boutique hotel or similar hotels, located right on the world famous Konyaalti beach with breakfast <http://www.khanhotel.com/tr> or similar hotels available at the time of booking.

Day-7: 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 Fort City:**

- **Hadrian's Gate:** This is the only remaining gate from the former city walls of Antalya. It has served as the entrance gate to Antalya's old town, to Kaleiçi, for 1,900 years.
- **The Marina:** Walk around the marina for a beautiful view of the Mediterranean city.
- **Bazaar:** You can find one souvenir store after another lining the narrow cobblestone streets. Antiques, paintings, and high-quality carpets are also sold here. The houses themselves are also worth seeing, some dating back to the Ottoman era

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

Day-8: 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).

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 <https://www.divan.com.tr/hotel/divan-bursa-hotel> or similar hotels available at the time of booking.



Day-9: 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-10: Bursa/Istanbul:

Leave hotel after breakfast at 9.00 am for Istanbul airport (2 hour's drive) for onwards flight back to the home country or your next destination.

END OF THE TOUR

Notes:

1. Minimum number of persons required for this Group Tour is 12, Mavi Tours reserves the right, without recourse, to cancel the tour if the minimum number of persons are below 12. Full deposit, if paid, will be refunded in case the tour is cancelled by Mavi Tours.

2. Price of Tour Package:

GROUP TOUR PER PERSON IN US DOLLARS			
Months	Single B/R	Double B/R	Triple B/R
Jan-Marccvh/Oct-Dec	2,165.00	1,695.00	1,600.00
April-December	2,430.00	1,860.00	1,705.00

Children under 3 is USD 350, for under 4-11 a 10% discount is available.

Payment Terms: US\$750.00 deposit per person 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.

Refunds: 70% refund will be made if the cancellation is done 10 days prior to the start of the tour date, 60% refund will be made if the cancellation is done between 10-4 days prior to the start date of the tour. No refund will be made if the cancellation will be made within 3 days from the start date of the tour or no show.

Cancellation of Tour: Mavi Tours reserves the right to cancel the tour any time and refund the amounts, if any, paid by the customers in full.

Included in the Package:

- Travel in a 16-seater Mercedes Sprinter including driver, petrol, highway tolls and car parks.
 - Airport pick and drop to the hotel and back.
 - Sightseeing within the cities of Istanbul. Ankara, Cappadocia, Konya. Antalya, Pamukkale, Bursa.
 - Intercity travel in between the cities and back to Istanbul airport.
- 9-night stay in 4-star and boutique hotels with breakfast
- An English-speaking tour guide will be available wherever it is required.
- Bosphorous cruise with dinner in Istanbul.
- Dervish dance in Cappadocia.
- Jeep safari in Antalya.
- Museum entrance fees.

Excluded in the Package:

- Airfare from the departing city 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.
- In case any site to be visited are closed by the authorities for any reason Mavi Tours bears no liability for the closure. In such cases Mavi Tours reserve the right to take the group to an alternate sight.
- 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.

2024 Group Tour Dates

Saturday, January 13th

Saturday, February 10th

Saturday, March 9th

Saturday, April 13th

Saturday, May 11th

Saturday, June 8th

Saturday, July 13th

Saturday, August 10th

Saturday, September 7th

Saturday, October 12th

Saturday, November 9th

Saturday, December 7th

Note:

- 1. We are flexible to change the travel dates if a group of 12 persons agrees to the change.*
- 2. We can customize the tour based on the requirements of potential customers.*