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**Turkey Holiday**  
**Istanbul/Ephesus/Pamukkale (6 nights/7 days)**  
**January to December 2024**

**Day -1: Arrival at Istanbul Airport**

On arrival in Istanbul, you will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. Please share the details of your arrival with us.

Stay at Ottoman Imperial Hotel, a 4-star hotel located in the old city and at walking distance for most of the historical sites. <https://www.ottomanhotelimperial.com> located right next to historical landmark of Istanbul, Hagia Sophia. 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 9.30am. An English-speaking tour guide will be available today to visit the following sites:

- **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. (Closed on Tuesdays’, alternatively we will take you to visit Dolmabahce Palace).*
- **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 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. *1 hour*
- **Basilica Cistern:** The cistern was built under the Byzantine Emperor Justinian. The cistern is a large underground structure that held about 100,000 tons of water to supply water to the residents of Constantinople. It occupies a rectangular area equal to 140 meters in length and 70 meters in width. Inside the tank there are 336 columns with a height of 9 meters each, which form 12 rows of 28 columns each. *1 hour.*

45 minutes lunch break. Back to the hotel by 8.00pm.

### **Day -3: Istanbul**

Pick you up from the hotel at 9.30 after breakfast to visit.

- **Covered Market:** Built in 1456 this is one of the largest and oldest covered market in the world, with 61 covered streets and over 4,000 shops, attracting between 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily. The shops sell Carpets & Kilims, Colorful Lamps & Lanterns, Ceramics, Turkish Metalware, Gold and Silver Jewelry, leather Jackets etc. Price bargains are customary at most of the shops which could be in the range of 10% to 40%. *3 hours. (Closed on Sunday's alternatively we will take to the Spice Bazaar).*
- **Dolmabahce 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 tons. Dolmabahçe has the largest collection of Bohemian and Baccarat crystal chandeliers in the world. *2-hours (Closed on Mondays, alternatively we will take you to Topkapi Palace).*
- **Taksim/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.

45 minutes lunch break. Back to the hotel by 8.00pm.

### **Day -4: Istanbul/Selcuk (Ephesus)**

Check out and leave the hotel after breakfast by 8:00 AM for Selcuk(Izmir) in a Mercedes airconditioned Luxury Van. It is about 7 hours' drive to reach there by 3.00 PM with stop overs.

Stay at Hitit Hotel, a 4-star hotel with breakfast. <https://www.hitithotel.com.tr> or similar hotels depending on the availability at the time of booking. No tour will be organized for you to rest and relax. You can explore the areas around the hotel on your own.

### **Day-5: Selcuk:**

Meet at the hotel lobby after breakfast at 9:00 AM to visit the following sites with a licensed English-speaking tour guide:

- **Ephesus:** The city was built in the 10th century BC by Attica and the Ionian Greek colonists. The city came under the control of the Roman Empire in 129 BC. The ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus includes the iconic Library of Celsus, the Great Theater, the ancient walkway called the ‘Curetes Street’, and the incredible frescoes and mosaics of the Terrace Houses and the First Church of Revelation, The Church of Ephesus is where St. John lived and Christianity eventually became the city’s main religion. In forsaking its original love for Jesus Christ, the Church of Ephesus has embraced power and control rather than serve, sacrifice, and love and the grace of Christ. (3 hours)
- **Temple of Artemis:** One of the 7 wonders of the ancient world, the Temple of Artemis also known as the Temple of Diana, was a Greek temple dedicated to an ancient, local form of the goddess Artemis. By 401 AD it had been ruined or destroyed. Only foundations and fragments of the last temple remain at the site.
- **Cave of The Seven Sleepers:** It is believed in both Christianity and Islam that during the persecutions by the Roman Emperor Decius, around 250 AD, seven young men were accused of following Christianity. They were given some time to recant their faith, but they refused to bow to Roman idols. Instead, they chose to give their worldly goods to the poor and retire to a mountain cave to pray, where they fell asleep as it is claimed for 309 years.
- **The House of Virgin Mary:** Roman Catholics believe that Virgin Mary came to this place 5 years after the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, to spend the last years of her life.
- **Basilica of St. John:** The Basilica of St. John was a basilica in Ephesus, it was constructed by Justinian I in the 6th century.

Back to the hotel at around 8.00pm after dinner.

### **Day- 6: Selcuk/Pamukkale**

Check out and leave the hotel after breakfast at 9.00 for drive to Pamukkale, it is about takes about 2 hours to reach there by 12.00 with stop overs. An English-speaking tour guide will be available in Pamukkale. Visit the following places of interest.

**About Pamukkale:** Pamukkale is a town in western Turkiye known for the mineral-rich thermal waters flowing down white travertine terraces on a nearby hillside. It neighbors Hierapolis, an ancient Roman city founded around 190 B.C. Ruins there included a well-preserved theater, and a necropolis with sarcophagi that stretches for 2 km (1.24 miles). In

this area, there are 17 hot springs with temperatures ranging from 5 °C to 100 °C (95 °F to 212 °F).

- **City of 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's Pool:** According to legend, this artificially sculpted pool was a gift from Marc Anthony 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:** These were 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.

Have dinner on way back to the hotel.

Stay at Park Dedeman Hotel in Denizli <https://www.dedeman.com/en/hotels/park-dedeman-denizli>, a 4-star hotel with bed and breakfast or similar hotels depending on the availability at the time of booking.

### **Day -7: Denezli/Istanbul:**

Checkout from the hotel after breakfast at 7:30 AM for Denizli airport for your flight back to Istanbul (Flight No.: TK 2579) leaving at 9:50 AM and reaching Istanbul at around 11:05 am. You will then be taking the flight back to your home country.

## **END OF THE TOUR**

### **Prices:**

#### **1. Group Tour (Minimum of 12 Persons):**

- ***January-March/October-December 2024.***
  - a. Double Room: USD 1,065.00
  - b. Triple Room: USD 925.00
- ***September to December 2024:***
  - a. Double Room: USD 1,160.00
  - b. Triple Room: USD 1,020.00

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

## 2. Tour for No of Persons:

	January-March/October-December 2024				
	2	3	4	5	6
Number of Persons	2	3	4	5	6
USD Per Person	2,015.00	1,550.00	1,360.00	1,215.00	1,145.00
Children Under 4-11	1,810.00	1,395.00	11,225.00	1,095.00	1,030.00

	April-September 2024				
	2	3	4	5	6
Number of Persons	2	3	4	5	6
USD Per Person	2,108.00	1,610.00	1,455.00	1,290.00	1,235.00
Children Under 4-11	1,895.00	1,450.00	1,310.00	1,160.00	1,110.00

Children under 3 is USD 350.00.

### **Payment Terms:**

- **Payment:** The full amount needs to be paid 10 days prior to the start of the tour.
- **Refund:** 70% of the amount paid will be refunded in cancellation is made between 10 to 5 days prior to the start of the tour, 60% of the amount paid will be refunded if the cancellation is made 3 to 5 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, Selcuk and Pamukkale in a 4-star hotel with breakfast.
- Transportation by luxury air-conditioned Van or minibus with driver, petrol, car park and highway tolls for:
  - sightseeing in Istanbul, Selcuk and Pamukkale
  - Airport pick up and drop in Istanbul and Denizli
  - Intercity travel from Istanbul to Selcuk and Pamukkale.
  - Airfare for flight from Denizli to Istanbul.
- A qualified/Licensed English-speaking tour guide will be provided for one day each in Istanbul, Selcuk and Pamukkale.
- Museum entrance fees

### **Exclusions:**

- Air ticket from/to from your home country to the destination.
- Visa and related expenses
- Lunches, 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.