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Turkey Holiday
Istanbul/Cappadocia (6 nights/7 days)
November 2023 to March 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 5-star serviced apartments in Maslak without breakfast. https://www.discoverasr.com/en/somerset-serviced-residence/turkiye/somerset-maslak-istanbul?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=HQ-google-organic-always-on-20230628-all-en-meati-tr-somersetmaslakistanbul-eme-gbp or similar hotels depending on the availability at the time of final booking.

The serviced apartment is fully equipped with kitchen, laundry room and a sitting room apart from the bedrooms. For breakfast you can buy the stuff from the nearby supermarkets or have it at the nearby places outside the facility with plenty of options.

No tour will be organized today for you to take rest and relax.

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).

- **Hagia 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, Ataturk 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*.
- **Hodjapasha:** The Sema ceremony is a spiritual journey of whirling dervishes for divine love. Starts at 7.00pm to last for one 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:** Dolmabahce 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. Dolmabahce 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:** Istiklal 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/Cappadocia.

Pick up from the hotel after breakfast at 9.00am to be transferred to Istanbul airport for flight TK 2016 at 11.15 to reach Kayseri by 12.40.

You will be picked up from the airport to be transferred to the hotel. It's about an hour's drive. You can have lunch on way to the hotel in Kayseri.

Stay at Aja Cave Hotel, in a twin bedroom with breakfast. <https://www.ajacappadocia.com> 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: Cappadocia:

Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride: Pick up time for hot air balloon ride is around 6.00 AM at sunrise. The balloon ride will be for about an hour. Return to hotel at 8.30 AM.

Pick up from hotel after breakfast at 9.30 for sightseeing. An English-speaking tour guide will be available for the whole day.

- **Underground city of Derinkuyu:** The ancient city of known Derinkuyu, burrows more than 85m below the Earth's surface, encompassing 18 levels of tunnels, a subterranean city that could conceal the whereabouts of up to 20,000 inhabitants for months at a time.
- **Fairy Chimney (Peribacalari):** 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.
- **Uc Hisar:** 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.
- **Pigeon Valley (Güvercinlik vadisi):** Pigeon Valley is one of the best spots for walking in the marvellous Cappadocia region, the valley is located between Goreme and Uchisar, where you can visit Uchisar Castle for a magnificent view, an easy hiking trail connects the two via the valley passing through rock-hewn Christian churches and abandoned cave homes. Adventurers may also choose to explore Pigeon Valley on horseback or with a jeep safari.

Back to the hotel at around 8.00pm after dinner.

Day- 6: Cappadocia

If due to bad weather the Hot air balloon ride is cancelled you can have it today.

Pick up from the hotel at 10.00 after breakfast to visit the following sites. An English-speaking tour guide will be available for today.

- **Goreme Open Air Museum:** This Unesco World Heritage site is an essential stop on any Cappadocian itinerary. First thought to be a Byzantine monastic settlement that housed some 20 monks, then a pilgrimage site from the 17th century, this splendid cluster of monastic Byzantine artistry with its rock-cut churches, chapels and monasteries is 1km uphill from Göreme's centre.
- **Devrent Valley:** It is called a camel rock! Nicknamed 'Imagination Valley' locally, Devrent Valley's rock formations are some of the best formed and most thickly clustered in Cappadocia. Most of the rosy rock cones are topped by flattish, darker stones of harder rock that sheltered the cones from the rain until all the surrounding rock was eaten away. This process is known to geologists as differential erosion but you can just call it kooky.
- **Avanos pottery making:** Discover the unique Cappadocian art of pottery-making, a tradition that dates back to the Hittite period, on this 2.5-hour tour of Avanos, the heart of the region's craft industry. Step inside a ceramics workshop to watch the experts at work, then try for yourself as you craft a jug on the spinning pottery wheel – a unique souvenir to take home with you.
- **Paşabağı:** This is where the spectacular mushroom-shaped rock formations can be seen. Paşabağı is also called Monks Valley because of the Chapel of Saint Simeon, which is located in the valley.

Will take you to the city center for dinner and drop you back to the hotel at around 9.00pm

Day -7: Cappadocia/Istanbul:

Leave for Kayseri airport after breakfast at 8.0 hours to catch flight TK 2027 at 11.00 to reach Istanbul airport by 12.35 to catch an onwards flight for your ultimate destination.

END OF THE TOUR

Prices:

- **Group Tour (Minimum of 12 Persons):**
 - a. **Double Room: USD 1,100.00**
 - b. **Triple Room: USD 1,020.00**

- **Tour for No of Persons:**

	Number Of Persons				
	2	3	4	5	6
Adults Over 6 Years	2	3	4	5	6
USD Per Person	1,790.00	1,415.00	1,360.00	1,265.00	1,215.00
Children Under 3-6	1,610.00	1,275.00	1,225.00	1,140.00	1,095.00

Children Under 3: \$450.00

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, 76% 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 in a 5-star hotel in Istanbul and a cave hotel in Cappadocia for 6 nights.
- Transportation by luxury air-conditioned Van or minibus with driver, petrol, car park and highway tolls for:
 - sightseeing in Istanbul and Cappadocia
 - Airport pick and drop in Istanbul and Cappadocia.
- A qualified/Licensed English-speaking tour guide will be provided for one day in Istanbul and for 2 days in Cappadocia.
- Airfare from Istanbul to Kayseri (Cappadocia) and back to Istanbul.
- Museum entrance fees
- Dervish dance in Istanbul.

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.