



Turquoise Coast

Essence of the trip

We start with exploring legendary Constantinople, masterpieces of the last two millenniums, walk the timeless streets, eating at exotic places, staying at the Sultan's neighbourhood. Walking through some of the world's strangest scenery, in Cappadocia, where the trails take us to a surrealistic landscapes of volcanic chimneys, excavated for use as houses by early Christians, gorges, vineyards, elaborately carved and frescoed rock churches and entire underground cities. West from the old city of Antalya with its shady palm-lined boulevards, narrow winding streets and wooden houses, are the idyllic shores of ancient Lycia. We slowly cruise along the coast, landing to walk through scented hills and visit classical coastal sites, explore islands, search for the Chimaera of Mt Olympus before arriving at the magnificent site of Ephesus, once the commercial centre of the ancient world.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 **ISTANBUL – Introductory Walk – June 25th**

Meet with our professional Turkish guide at Ataturk Airport and transfer to your hotel in the heart of the historic district and start exploring Istanbul. We stroll the Divanyolu, exploring the old cemeteries, fountains, water-pipe joints towards, Ottoman Medresahs towards University Square. This walk leads us to one of the highlights of Turkish history, Mosque Complex of Suleiman the Magnificent. We explore this exquisite work of Architect Sinan, the Great, and make our way into the Grand Bazaar, via the Old Book Bazaar. At the end of the day enjoy our welcome dinner at Hamdi Restaurant, with a great location and food.

Sites visited: Suleiman Magnificent Mosque Complex, Grand Bazaar, etc.

DAY 2 **ISTANBUL – Sultanahmet Walk – June 26th**

We start the day in the Roman Hippodrome, continue to 400-year-old Sultanahmet Mosque (Blue Mosque), and Hagia Sophia Church, a great architectural achievement of the first half of the 6th century, by Emperor Justinianus, then go to visit the Topkapi Palace, which was the capital of the Ottoman Empire and the home of the Ottoman Dynasty for 400 years. We are having lunch in the palace today. Enjoy dinner at one of the most vibrant parts of Istanbul, in the fish market in Beyoglu area.

Sites visited: Topkapi Palace, Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern, and Roman Hippodrome and Hagia Sophia



DAY 3 **ISTANBUL – Golden Horn Walk – June 27th**

We transfer to the Egypt Bazaar (Spice Market). Spice Market and environs is very colorful. The cheese market, pet market, seed market, 200+ years Turkish Coffee vendors, Turkish delight, spices etc. Our walk concludes the neighborhoods along the Golden Horn, where we meander the old streets, where historic mosques, churches and synagogues pop up, stop at Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, sacred springs, city walls, dungeons, elephant stables, Byzantine Palaces and at the end the legendary “Chora Church”, which is known as the pioneer for the renaissance art, for its magnificent glass mosaics.

Sites visited: Spice Market, Cibali Tobacco Factory, Rose Mosque (Hagia Theodosia Church), Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, St. Stephan Bulgarian Church, Ahrida Synagogue, Surp Hreşdagabed Armenian Church, Blacherna Sacred Fountain & Ayazma Church, Tekfur Palace, Elephant Stables, Chora Church.

DAY 4 **ISTANBUL – Asia Walk – June 28th**

Today is a day in Asian Istanbul. We explore the old and new neighborhoods of Uskudar and Kadikoy. Salacak, between Uskudar and Kadikoy is the best spot to look at the silhouette of the Historic Peninsula. Kadikoy, ancient Calhkedon, has a nice market area, antique stores, the best ecological restaurant, where we have lunch, and the best ice-cream. After, spending some time here, we head back to our hotel to change for the Bosphorus cruise and dinner. We take the commuters ferry up the Bosphorus, and watch the old palaces, mosques, fortresses and the wooden waterfront houses, some the most expensive real estate in the world.

Sites visited: Markets, antique stores, Salacak, Uskudar.

DAY 5 **CAPPADOCIA – June 29th**

A short morning flight and a short drive take us to Cappadocia. Cappadocia is a wonder with fairy geological formations, more than 1000 early Christian rock carved churches with frescoes, lots of local product and craftsmanship such as onyx carving, carpet making and winery. We have two full days in this magical part of the world to explore. We start our tour at Uchisar Castle, a natural rock formation that has served Cappadocians as residence and a defensive point. After a short walk, we visit the Goreme open-air museum, which has the finest examples of Christian rock carved churches with frescoes. At the end of the day, we visit a local carpet-weaving coop to have a lecture and a demonstration on this very proud art of Turks. Turks claim to invent the knotted carpets on the Central Asian steppes, to have comfortable mattresses in their nomadic tents. Earliest sample of a knotted rug is found in a glacier in Turkistan and kept in a museum in Russia.

Extracurricular activities: Carpet lecture and demonstration,

Sites visited: Uchisar Castle, Goreme Open air Museum



DAY 6 **CAPPADOCIA – June 30th**

After two great hikes through rock dwellings and hidden churches of the unearthly valleys, we visit Avanos, where we will taste the local specialties at a picnic lunch. Then we visit world-famous master potter's workshop, Chez Galip. Galip is a remarkable member of the local artists who maintain the ancient way of using the potter's wheel, which, according to the scholar was invented in Anatolia in the early Bronze Age.

In the afternoon, we visit one of the most impressive underground cities, Derinkuyu or Kaymakli. The desperate people of Cappadocia have dug the earth in order to create underground settlements since the pre historic ages. Derinkuyu and Kaymakli are the best samples for many troglodyte settlements, 150 feet under the ground. Before we return to our hotel we may stop a local winery to test their products, which they generously offer to us.

Extracurricular activities: Visiting the workshop of Potter Galip, wine test, Turkish Folk Dance show in a cave restaurant (optional), hiking 3-4 hours

Sites visited: Derinkuyu underground city.

DAY 7 **STAY IN A VILLAGE WITH A TURKISH FAMILY – July 1st**

On route to a mountain village, visit Konya and the Mevlana Museum, home of the Whirling Dervishes. Continue to the remote mountain village of Urunlu via Beysehir Lake on seldom-used back roads. Spend the night with a family in the village, eating and sleeping in the local tradition. This is a traditional community rarely visited by western travellers. Villagers who have chosen to participate with us in this authentic cross-cultural encounter have recently added a few beds, new plumbing and more privacy, so you feel welcome and comfortable as their guest.

Extracurricular activities: Village stay

Sites visited: Mevlana(Rumi) Museum, a Caravansarai

DAY 8 **ANTALYA – July 2nd**

In the morning we enjoy a scenic drive over the Taurus Mountains to the coastal city of Antalya. Stop to see Aspendos Theatre, the best preserved Roman Theatre in the world. Antalya is situated south of the Mid-Taurus mountain range and is the Turkish citrus and cotton capital. The ancient heart of the city, clustered around the old harbour, is where Attalus II, the king of Pergamon, founded a port in 2C BC. This district, known as Kaleiçi (meaning 'within the fortress') now is a pretty cove, encircled by low cliffs, which serves as a haven for gulleets and fishing boats. Spend the night in old Antalya in one of the boutique hotels.

Extracurricular activities: Walking in the village.

Sites visited: Aspendos Theater



DAY 13 **BINLIK COVE – July 7th**

In the morning we cruise to Batik Hamam (Sunken Bath) cove which has a Roman bath about 5 feet under water – where Mark Anthony is said to have wooed Cleopatra. From here we walk through pine forests enjoying spectacular views of the Mediterranean, to visit the Lycian site of Lydae which is accessible only on foot. We descend to our boat to anchor for the night in Binlik Cove or a cove near Gocek. **2,5 h**

Extracurricular activities: Hike from Batik Hamam to Binlik, sail

Sites visited: Lydae

DAY 14 **EPHESUS AREA – July 8th**

We disembark in Marmaris and drive to Ephesus area, which is in the heart of ancient civilisations. Settle in the 250 years old village cottages in Sirince village, restored in a heavenly way by the Nisanyan family. Start exploring the vicinity.

Extracurricular activities:

Sites visited: Sirince visit and maybe more depending on time.

DAY 15 **ISTANBUL – July 9th**

We check out go to explore the king of the ancient sites : Ephesus. We also see the Archaeological Museum. We can absorb and enjoy this site, despite the madding tourist crowds. As well, we visit the Basilica and Tomb of St John, and The Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Take the late afternoon flight to Istanbul and check into our hotel. Enjoy the farewell dinner at a great spot.

Extracurricular activities: Farewell dinner.

Sites visited: Ephesus ancient city, Ephesus Museum, Basilica and Tomb of St John, Isabey Mosque and The Temple of Artemis.

DAY 15 **END OF TOUR**

Transfer to Ataturk Airport.



These are the hotels we booked for you!

Istanbul	Ottoman Hotel Imperial http://www.ottomanhotelimperial.com/
Cappadoccia	Elkep Evi http://www.elkepevi.com/
Antalya	Dogan Hotel http://www.doganhotel.com/
Ephesus area	Nisanyan Evleri http://www.nisanyan.com/?lang=tr

We booked Unal Kaptan as your vessel.

Type	Ketch – Gullet
Year	2004
Constructed in	Bozburun, Marmaris
Hull	Teak
Length	80 feet
Beam (Max.)	21 feet
Engine	2 x 320 HP Volvo Penta
Fuel Tank	2.5 t.
Fresh Water	7 t.
Black water	5 t
Generator	32 Kwa Deutz
Electricity	24V DC / 220V AC
Crew	4

Equipment on board:

VHF, GPS, radar, stereo music system. TV, TV-DVD player, GHP. Fully equipped galley, saloon, sun mattresses, fishing and snorkeling gear, dinghy with 15 HP YAMAHA outboard motor, A/C

Accommodation:

Air conditioned 6 cabins for up to 12 persons all with private wc and shower: 2 guest cabins with two single beds, 4 guest cabins with double bed; seperate crew cabins.

