

Istanbul Byzantine & Ottoman Relics (Full Day)



ABOUT TOUR

Tour of "**Sultan Ahmet Center**", the heart of the "**Old City**" from where the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires were ruled.

Istanbul was the capital of two of the greatest empires of not only their times but also in history: Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire) and Ottoman Empire. The city is the world's only metropolis to extend into more than one continent Europe and Asia. Istanbul's many historical areas were added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1985. In addition, because of its status as a world rising power, its history, importance to culture in both Europe and the world, Istanbul has been designated the European Capital of Culture for 2010 by the European Union.

Tour Program

Morning meet your guide at the lobby and departure from your Hotel,

Visit **Hagia Sophia**, the Church of Divine Wisdom, one of the greatest marvels of architecture, constructed as a basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian. Visit **Blue Mosque**, facing Hagia Sophia, famous with its blue İznik tiles and unique with 6 minarets, built in the name of Sultan Ahmet. Visit **Hippodrome**, center of sportive events (chariot races, athletics) and political activities of the old city. Serpentine Column, Obelisk of Theodosius and German Fountain of Wilhelm II are the monuments decorating the Hippodrome. Visit **Grand Covered Bazaar**, most attractive shopping center and the biggest "souk" in the world with nearly 4000 shops selling antiques, jewellery, gold, carpets, leatherware and souvenir. (Art demonstration of handmade Turkish carpets upon request)

Lunch at a Turkish Restaurant.

After lunch break, Visit **Topkapı Palace**, residence of Ottoman Sultans exhibiting imperial treasury, sacred Islamic relics of Prophet Mohammed, kitchen, Chinese porcelain, weapons, calligraphy section etc. Live guide commentary is not allowed in special sections. (Harem is not included in the program) Visit **Sultan Tombs**, there are five tombs of Ottoman Sultans within the graveyard at Hagia Sophia. The ceramic panels are the most beautiful examples of the 16th century with purple, red, green and blue flower motives. Prince robes and a small piece from the Kaaba covers are displayed on the sarcophaguses.

also visioned during the tour;

GALATA BRIDGE • GOLDEN HORN • LEANDER'S TOWER

This tour ends approximately at 17:00

Museum CLOSED days;

- Hagia Sophia on **Monday** replaced with Underground (Basilica) Cistern
- Blue Mosque visited from outside on **Friday mornings** because of noon prayer
- Grand Covered Bazaar on **Sunday** replaced with authentic shops
- Topkapı Palace on **Tuesday** replaced with Tour to Byzantium
- Sultan Tombs on **Monday** replaced with Little Hagia Sophia (St. Sergius & Bacchus)
- Dolmabahçe Palace on **Monday & Thursday** replaced with Eyüp + Pierre Loti Coffee House + Miniaturk,
- St. Savior in Chora (Kariye Museum) on **Wednesday**

For Private tour rates and programs Please contact with us...

Liability Included Services

Tour fees include A/C transportation, professional guidance in multiple languages, entrance fees to the Sites and Museums and mentioned meals...

We kindly request our guests to be ready by the hotel's reception 10 minutes before departure time, 30% discount for children below the age 7, free for the ages of 0-2,

Guests are to be promptly on time at the meeting points given by the tour guide. Tours will proceed without waiting the delayers,

Tour programs and prices may change without prior notice. Any increase in museum entrance fees will be reflected in the prices.

Services not included in the price list

Passport and Visa expences, Hotel Accommodations, dinners and lunches, alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages other than mentioned above, personal expences and customary end-of-tour gratuities to guide and drivers...

Turkey Holiday Planner is not responsible for any loss or theft of personal belongings during the tour.

Payment and Cancellation Policy

GROUP BOOKINGS : A deposit of 10 % of the total amount is required to process and confirm the reservation at the time of registration. Balance of payment must be received 30 days prior to

departure.

If your balance is not paid at the specified time (unless previously arranged with us in writing) we reserve the right to cancel your booking.

CANCELLATIONS / REFUNDS : Cancellations should be received by Turkey Holiday Planner in writing. We strongly suggest the purchase of the Trip Cancellation and Tour Interruption Insurance. Deadline for cancellation of individual bookings is 3 days, for groups 35 days prior to the departure of the tour. For cancellations on departure date or after no refund will be made regardless of the cause, whatsoever. No refund can be made for no-shows, unused hotel accommodation, meals or tours not taken cannot be refunded.

Should we cancel your holiday, your deposit and any other payments made will be refunded in full. However, if our cancellation is due to 'force majeure' any reasonable expenses we have incurred will be deducted from your refund. (War, civil or political unrest is usually known as force majeure). All refunds and compensation are strictly limited to the amount paid to us and we are not liable for any expenses you have incurred as a result of this booking. Your holiday will not be cancelled after the final payment is due unless we are forced to do so by force majeure.

The tour leader/guide who represents Turkey Holiday Planner has overriding authority on our tours. By signing our booking form, you agree to do this. If you commit any illegal act on a tour with us or if in the opinion of the tour leader or ground operator your behavior is detrimental to the safety and welfare of the group as a whole you may be asked to leave the tour without any right to refund.

Any complaints with regard to our tours must be immediately brought to the attention of the tour leader, ground operators or hotelier so that the necessary action to rectify the matter can be taken. However, if by the end of the tour you still feel you have a valid complaint you must notify the company, in writing, within 14 days of the end of your tour with Turkey Holiday Planner.

You are responsible for ensuring all necessary travel documents are in order. Many countries require passports to be valid for at least six months after entry.

We will be looking forward to hearing from you and being of service to your group...

Please do not hesitate to contact us If you would have any further questions...

Best Regards,