



TURKEY ITINERARY

MAY 20th, 2020 - MAY 30th, 2020
This is a 10 Person Trip



THE HIGHLIGHTS

For thousands of years, Turkey has served as a cultural bridge between East and West, Romans and Byzantines, Christianity and Islam. This rich history is on brilliant display in its monuments, whether it's the ancient Hagia Sophia, the 13th century wooden mosque in Beysehir or the turquoise Seljuk dome rising high above the stone buildings of Mevlana's tomb in Konya. The country's countless cultures, both past and present, give travelers a wealth to experience and taste, from Ottoman splendor and artisan craft to palace cuisine and country staples.

Our journey will start and end in the vibrant city of Istanbul where we will take in all the breathtaking sights and sounds that Turkey's largest metropolis has to offer, from the colorful bazaars and boutiques to the carpets and ancient Sufi and Seljuk cultures of Konya and Beysehir. The group will then take an illuminating drive into the Anatolian heartland before heading to the Mediterranean coast to soak in the sun on the pristine beaches and swim in the azure sea of Olympos.



THE GUIDE

We've teamed up with Clare Frost- textile designer, shop co-owner, actress, and aficionado on all things Turkey. Frost moved to Istanbul in 2006 to be the live-in assistant to collector and ethnographer Joesphine Powell, where she explored her endless assemblages of Anatolian flat weaves and natural dyes. After Powell passed away in 2007, Frost worked on an exhibition about her late mentor at the Koc/Sadberk Hanim Museum. She went on to work at the noted Mehmet Cetinkaya Gallery, and then Tulu Textiles before founding her own line in 2011.

An inveterate shopper and explorer, Frost considers herself more at home in the Grand Bazaar than any other place, and has been taking designers and private shoppers on curated tours around Istanbul for years. She has also translated several Turkish novels into English and has starred on the world-famous "What is Fatmagul's Fault?"- a TV series broadcast in over 40 countries.

WHERE WE SHOP

Because Turkey plays a crossroads between the east and west it is a dream destination to go for unique one of a kind shopping. From street festivals selling unique vintage and "junk" finds, to boutiques specializing in design and cuisine from Uzbekistan, Turkey, Middle East, and the Far East; Istanbul has it all.

During our trip to this incredible country our goal is to take you to the best and most unique dealers we know. We want to give you an insiders access to what the pro's look at and even what you may only find while traveling with us such as a secret salvage yard in Beysehir.

WHERE WE RELAX

Besides shopping till you drop and learning about the rich history of Turkey we also want to make sure you have time to chill.

First step is picking great unique boutique hotels to stay at in prime locations. We selected locations with unique stories, prime locations and great amenities.

Second step is making sure to packing in time for spa days, luxury boat rides and time for you to relax by the beach or the pool. We want to make sure you have that down time to recuperate from all the shopping and sight seeing!





ARTISANS

From jewelers and weavers to coppersmiths and ceramicists, our journey through Turkey will give you an inside look at what makes this region's artisans and their work justifiably famous and prized world-wide.

Turkish weaving is renowned not only for its astounding level of detail and skill, but the high quality wools so lustrous and strong they easily pass for mohair. We will go directly to the biggest and best dealers (many of whom are collectors themselves!) to uncover the finest carpets, kilims, and tulus the Anatolian heartland has to offer.

Because of its historical position as both the endpoint of the Silk Road and the capital of multiple empires, Istanbul is overflowing with all sorts of Ottoman and Central Asian delights. Whether it's antique enamel work or Kutahay-ware that come with a centuries-old provenance, or brand new copper candlesticks and tray tables that continue the legacy of Turkish craft, the treasure hunt at the Grand Bazaar will always turn up diamonds in the rough!



THE HISTORY

Situated between Greece and Bulgaria to the west, Georgia and Armenia to the northeast, Iran and Iraq to the east, and Syria to the south, Turkey has always been at a crossroads of cultures and faiths for centuries.

Constantinople (now known as Istanbul) was first established in 330 AD as the new capital of the Roman Empire and the new monument to the emperor Constantine's new-found Christian faith. In 1453 Christian Byzantium fell to the Ottomans, and so began the flowering of new empire in which churches that once stood as testaments to Christianity, like the Hagia Sofia and Chora were quickly transformed into dazzling mosques and tributes to Islam.

But while the Byzantines and Ottomans were certainly the main players in Anatolian history, we must not overlook the hundreds of smaller cultures that flourished within these major empires, like the Greeks, Armenians, and Kurds. In fact, Greek ruins and place names still dot the landscape along the Mediterranean coast.

The Finer Details

Early registration price is \$2900 USD per person for a double occupancy room offering two twin size beds. Early registration pricing is only available until December 30, 2019.

The price for any Passenger booking after December 30, 2019 will be \$3300 USD and bookings will close for this trip April 15, 2020. A deposit of \$1650 is required to reserve your spot.

This Includes:

- 11 nights stay in 4 Star hotel accommodations
- Breakfast Daily
- Tours through Istanbul and Konya Museums
- Full day tour of Grand Bazaar
- Insiders access to various rug and textile artists and manufacturers
- Airline transfers between Istanbul, Konya and Antalaya
- Private coach vehicle between Konya and Olympos
- Private yacht tour of the Bosphorous with cocktails
- Visit to luxury Turkish hamam
- Private day trip on a sailboat in the Turkish Mediterranean, lunch included
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- Flights too and from Istanbul
- Meals other than breakfast, the welcome/farewell dinners, and wherever else stated in full itinerary
- Airport Transfers, though private transfers can be arranged at additional cost.
- Shipping and taxes for any goods purchased by Passengers. We can arrange quotes for each person if desired

This Doesn't Include:

Itinerary:

- Day 1| May 20th - Arrive from airport and meet in hotel lobby to embark on sunset cruise of the Bosphorous, cocktails included. Welcome dinner to follow.
- Day 2| May 21st - Tours of Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Spice Market and Rustem Pasha with free time in the evening.
- Day 3| May 22nd - Local tour of Galata and Karakoy neighborhoods, Topkapi Palace and Sokollu Mehmet. Private visit to block print artist.
- Day 4| May 23rd - Personal guided day visit to the Grand Bazaar and learning about all of Clare Frost's favorite vendors. Late afternoon visit to a Turkish Hamam.
- Day 5| May 24th - Morning visit to the cisterns followed by visit to Tulu and Huseyin Kaplans boutique. Afternoon free time before flying to Konya.
- Day 6| May 25th - Morning visit to Rumi's Tomb and the Mevlana's Museum, followed by visits to various rug and textile weavers factories. Dinner together at hotel.
- Day 7| May 26th - Morning exploring Konya followed by bus transfer to Olympos Beach.
- Day 8| May 27th - Morning visit to local greek ruins followed by free time on the beach or at a spa.
- Day 9| May 28th - Board a private yacht for a dail of sailing on the Turkish Mediterranean.
- Day 10| May 29th - Board a flight back to Istanbul, tour Chora Church and surrounding neighborhood. Farewell dinner.
- Day 11| May 30th - Check out of hotel and be transferred to airport.