THE WONDERS OF ANATOLIA

Itinerary: 11 Days/ 10 Nights

Program in Brief	
Day 01	ISTANBUL
Day 02	ISTANBUL / "Byzantine Legacies" Tour
Day 03	ISTANBUL / Intercontinental Bosphorus
Day 04	ISTANBUL - ANKARA - CAPPADOCIA
Day 05	CAPPADOCIA
Day 06	CAPPADOCIA - PAMUKKALE
Day 07	PAMUKKALE
Day 08	PAMUKKALE - EPHESUS - KUŞADASI
Day 09	ŞIRINCE
Day 10	KUŞADASI – BURSA – ISTANBUL
Day 11	ISTANBUL

Itinerary day by day

Day 01: ISTANBUL

Arrival in Istanbul. Meet your local operator at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Free time in the afternoon. In the evening, head to the city center to explore the famous İstiklal Caddesi, home to the iconic Galata Tower and a lively mix of shops, cafés, galleries, and historic spots. Enjoy some free time before returning to the hotel for overnight stay.

Accommodation ISTANBUL Hotel Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 02: ISTANBUL / Byzantine Heritage Tour

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we explore Istanbul's historic old town. We begin at the Forum of Constantine and its 4th-century column (Çemberlitaş), followed by the stunning Basilica Cistern, an underground marvel from the 6th century.

Next, we visit the majestic Hagia Sophia, a symbol of Istanbul's layered religious history, and then the ancient Roman Hippodrome, once the heart of Byzantine public life. We continue to the iconic Blue Mosque, famous for its six minarets and beautiful blue tiles.

We end the day at the Grand Bazaar, the world's largest covered market, before returning to the hotel for overnight stay.

Accommodation ISTANBUL Hotel Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 03: ISTANBUL / Intercontinental Bosporus

Breakfast at the hotel. We begin with a visit to the iconic Suleymaniye Mosque, perched on a hill with views of the Golden Horn. Its grand dome and towering minarets are among Istanbul's most recognizable. Before lunch, we visit the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George, seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since 1600 and the spiritual center of the Orthodox Church. After lunch at a local restaurant, we enjoy a scenic Bosphorus cruise, admiring mosques, palaces, bridges, and Ottoman mansions.

We end the day at the historic Spice Bazaar (1660), famous for its rich variety of spices and Turkish delights. Return to the hotel. Overnight stay

Accommodation	ISTANBUL Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 04: ISTANBUL - ANKARA - CAPPADOCIA

After breakfast and check-out, we depart for Ankara, the capital of Turkey. Upon arrival, we visit the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the modern Turkish Republic. A key figure in the country's transformation, Atatürk is honored here for his lasting legacy and leadership.

On the way, we pass by Lake Tuz, Turkey's second-largest lake, known for its striking salt flats.
We then continue to Cappadocia, a historic region in Central Anatolia famous for its surreal landscapes and volcanic rock formations. Before reaching the hotel, we'll stop at a traditional pottery workshop to witness the region's artisan heritage.

Dinner and overnight in Cappadocia.

Optional: Early the next morning, you can join a hot air balloon ride (at an additional cost) to experience Cappadocia's breathtaking scenery at sunrise — one of the top three ballooning destinations in the world.

Accommodation	CAPPADOCIA Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 05: CAPPADOCIA

Breakfast. Departure to explore Cappadocia's stunning volcanic landscape, shaped by the Erciyes and Hasan volcanoes. Known as the "land of beautiful horses" since Persian times.
Visit the Göreme Open-Air Museum with its early Christian cave churches, then explore an ancient underground city used for protection 2,000 years BC.
Continue to Uchisar Castle. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation	CAPPADOCIA Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 06: CAPPADOCIA - PAMUKKALE

Breakfast. Early departure to Pamukkale, passing by the largest caravanserai in Anatolia known as Sultanhanı, built by Sultan Kaikubad I (1221-1237) to accelerate and facilitate regional trade. Later, we will pass through Konya, the largest city in Anatolia and the center of the Whirling Dervishes.

Accommodation	PAMUKKALE Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 07: PAMUKKALE

Breakfast in the morning. Departure to explore the famous "Cotton Castle," which is how this natural wonder is called. As you approach its base, you clearly understand who came up with the name. The entire slope of the mountain is an immaculate white under the sun, the kind of white that hurts your eyes, but it is neither snow, ice, nor salt. It is, in fact, a geological formation created by the thermal waters in the area. In this place, we will also visit the "Cleopatra Pool," an outdoor hot spring pool that allows visitors to bathe.

Next, we will visit the ancient city of Hierapolis, a Greco-Roman city with a history spanning more than 2,000 years, and we will visit the Grand Theatre. In the afternoon, return to the hotel, free time to enjoy the healing pools at the hotel. Dinner and accommodation.

Accommodation	PAMUKKALE Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 08: PAMUKKALE – EPHESUS - KUSADASI

Breakfast. Departure to Ephesus, the best-preserved Greco-Roman city in Asia Minor from the 1st and 2nd centuries. Walking through the main entrance, the Magnesia Gate, you will be amazed by the incredible views. Streets made of marble lead to impressive temples, frescoes in the Terrace Houses, fountains, and porticos.

We will visit the three-story Library of Celsus, which was the third-largest library in the ancient world, the Odeon, the Temple of Adriano on Curetes Street (the priests' street), the Fountain of Trajan, and the Great Theatre, which hosted around 25,000 spectators.

After the visit to Ephesus, we will continue to the House of the Virgin Mary, believed to be the final resting place of Jesus' mother. This site is now considered a pilgrimage point, especially for Catholics. We will then continue towards Kusadasi on the Aegean Sea, followed by a visit to a leather workshop. Dinner and accommodation. Accommodation will be either in Izmir or Kusadasi, depending on the season and availability at the time of booking.

Accommodation	KUSADASI Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 09: ŞIRINCE

Breakfast. Visit the ancient village of Şirince, founded by early Christians fleeing Ephesus. Once an Orthodox-Greek town until the 1924 population exchange, it is now a charming village known for its fruit wines. Enjoy lunch and free time to explore Şirince.

Continue to the Selçuk/Izmir region to visit a 13th-century mosque, the Basilica of St. John, and the ruins of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Later, visit the center of Kuşadası with free time along the Aegean coast. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation	KUSADASI Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 10: KUŞADASI – BURSA – ISTANBUL

Breakfast. Departure towards Bursa, a significant city that served as the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. Panoramic tour of the city, including a visit to the Green Mosque, one of the main mosques of Bursa and among the most beautiful in Turkey. We will also visit the Green Tomb, the resting place of one of the most important sultans, Mehmet I.

There will be an opportunity to stroll through the Silk Market, where you can admire antiques, silk items, perfumes, and pashminas. Arrival at the hotel in Istanbul and accommodation.

Accommodation	KUSADASI Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 11: ISTANBUL

Breakfast and free time for personal activities until the designated departure time. Transfer back to the airport.

End of Program

Price Included:

- 11 days / 10 nights
- Airport - Hotel - Airport transfers
- 5-star hotels
- 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 10 dinners
- 4 nights of accommodation in Istanbul
- 2 nights of accommodation in Cappadocia
- 2 night of accommodation in Pamukkale
- 2 night of accommodation in Kusadasi
- Professional English-speaking guides
- Tours included in Istanbul: Galata Tour / Intercontinental Bosporus Tour
- Air-conditioned coach with Wi-Fi
- 2 bottles of water per day per passenger
- Taxes
- 24-hour assistance via WhatsApp

Price excluded:

- Optional excursions or personal expenses