TURKEY BUTTERFLIES

Itinerary: 14 Days/ 13 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 - ANTALYA
Day 07	ANTALYA
Day 08	ANTALYA - PAMUKKALE
Day 09	PAMUKKALE – EPHESUS – KUSADASI
Day 10	ŞIRINCE
Day 11	KUSADASI – CHIOS (OPTIONAL)
Day 12	KUSADASI – TROY – ÇANAKKALE
Day 13	ÇANAKKALE – ISTANBUL - Pierre Loti
Day 14	ISTANBUL – RETURN

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 Süleymaniye Mosque, overlooking the Golden Horn and known for its grand dome and minarets.

We then cross to the Asian side to enjoy panoramic views from Çamlıca Hill, a peaceful spot at 285 meters altitude.Before lunch, we visit the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George, the spiritual center of Orthodox Christianity since the 1600s. After lunch, we take a scenic Bosphorus cruise, passing mosques, Ottoman palaces, bridges, and fortresses. The day ends at the Spice Bazaar, a 17th-century market full of exotic spices and Turkish delights. Return to the hotel for 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, a region shaped by volcanic eruptions and known since ancient times as the "land of beautiful horses."

We'll visit the Göreme Open-Air Museum with its rock-carved Christian churches, then explore Pasabag, Güvercinlik, and Love Valley, famous for their unique fairy chimneys and formations.

The day ends with a visit to a local stone workshop. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Accommodation	CAPPADOCIA Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 06: CAPPADOCIA - ANTALYA

Breakfast. We depart from Cappadocia and travel toward Antalya, with a stop in Konya to visit the Mevlana Museum, which was once a theological school for the mystical whirling dervishes.

Lunch will be served along the way. Upon arrival in Antalya, check-in at the hotel.

Overnight stay in Antalya.

Accommodation	ANTALYA Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 07: ANTALYA

Breakfast. Today we join the "Classic Mediterranean" excursion. We begin in Antalya's old town, a blend of ancient charm and modern life. Surrounded by historic walls, its narrow streets and traditional houses lead to the scenic old harbor, now a lively marina.

You can enjoy a drink with sea views or take a short boat ride along the coast. Next, we visit Aspendos to explore its remarkably preserved Roman Theater. Lunch included. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation	ANTALYA Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 08: ANTALYA - PAMUKKALE

Breakfast. Early departure toward Pamukkale. Upon arrival in Pamukkale, we will visit Hierapolis and the Cotton Castle, a true natural wonder. This site features a giant waterfall, stalactites, and natural pools formed over centuries by thermal waters rich in calcium salts.
Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation	PAMUKKALE Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 09: PAMUKKALE – EPHESUS – KUSADASI

Breakfast. Departure to Ephesus, the best-preserved Greco-Roman city in Asia Minor. Entering through the Magnesia Gate, we will explore marble streets, temples, the Terrace Houses, and landmarks like the Library of Celsus, the Odeon, Temple of Hadrian, Fountain of Trajan, and the Great Theater with a 25,000-seat capacity. Next, we visit the House of the Virgin Mary, a major Catholic pilgrimage site. We then continue to Kusadasi, with a stop at a leather workshop.

Dinner and overnight stay. Accommodation may be in Izmir or Kusadasi depending on the season.

Accommodation	KUSADASI Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 10: ŞİRİNCE

Breakfast. In the morning, we visit Şirince, a historic village founded by early Christians from Ephesus. It remained a Greek Orthodox village until 1924 and is now known for its picturesque houses and fruit wines.

After lunch and free time in Şirince, we continue to the Selçuk/Izmir area. We will 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, we explore the center of Kusadasi and enjoy free time along the Aegean coast.
Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation	ŞİRİNCE Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 11: KUSADASI – CHIOS (OPTIONAL)

Breakfast. Free day. Optional Tour: Greek Island of Chios (at additional cost):

At the scheduled time, transfer to Çesme port for the ferry to Chios. Upon arrival, the tour begins with visits to old water mills and a village famous for mastic production. We will pass through Kambos to see Genoese houses, and Armolia, known for mastic trees.

Next, explore the medieval village of Mesta, its Byzantine-era streets, and the Orthodox church of Megalos Taxiarchis. Enjoy free time to explore and taste local specialties. We continue to Pyrgi, known for its unique "ksista" façades and connection to Columbus, then head to Mavra Volia, a volcanic black stone beach, for a traditional Greek lunch. After a short walk in the island center, return by ferry to Çesme and transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation	KUSADASI Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 12: KUSADASI – TROY – ÇANAKKALE

Breakfast. In the morning, we depart for Troy, the legendary city of love and heroism from Homer's Iliad, located near the Dardanelles Strait at the foot of Mount Ida. Once thought mythical, Troy was discovered in 1868 and reveals 3,000 years of history through its nine layers of settlement, shaped by wars, disasters, and strategic importance.

We will explore the archaeological site, see the replica of the wooden horse, and visit the promenade displaying the original horse used in the 2004 film Troy. After the visit, transfer to the hotel in Çanakkale. Dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation	KUSADASI Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 13: ÇANAKKALE – ISTANBUL - Pierre Loti

Breakfast. Early departure to Istanbul, crossing the Dardanelles Strait back to Istanbul.
We will then take the Pierre Loti tour. Known for its views of Istanbul's natural harbor, the Golden Horn, Pierre Loti Hill (Pierre Loti Tepesi) is named after the famous French novelist and traveler.

A popular spot for taking selfies (or three), at the top of the hill, there are six historic mansions that have been converted into a boutique hotel. There is also a restaurant and the famous Pierre Loti Café, where you can enjoy the views with a cup of Turkish tea or coffee in hand. Loti used to sit here and write his novels when the café was known as Rabia Kadın Café.

For the best views of all, try the telescope on the observation platform at the Piyerloti funicular station. Return to the hotel and overnight stay.

Accommodation	KUSADASI Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 14: ISTANBUL

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

End of Program

Price Included:

- 14 days / 13 nights
- Airport - Hotel - Airport transfers
- carefully selected 5-star hotels
- 13 breakfasts, 4 lunch, 13 dinners
- 4 nights of accommodation in Istanbul
- 2 nights of accommodation in Cappadocia
- 2 nights of accommodation in Antalya

- 1 night of accommodation in Pamukkale
- 2 night of accommodation in Kusadasi
- 1 night of accommodation in Şirince
- 1 night of accommodation in Çanakkale
- 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