TURKEY WITH A GREEK ISLAND

Itinerary: 10 Days/ 09 Nights

Program in Brief	
Day 01	ISTANBUL
Day 02	ISTANBUL / Byzantine Heritage Tour
Day 03	ISTANBUL / Intercontinental Bosphorus
Day 04	ISTANBUL - ANKARA - CAPPADOCIA
Day 05	CAPPADOCIA
Day 06	CAPPADOCIA - PAMUKKALE
Day 07	PAMUKKALE - EPHESUS - KUSADASI
Day 08	KUSADASI
Day 09	KUSADASI - BURSA - ISTANBUL
Day 10	ISTANBUL - RETURN

Itinerary day by day

Day 01: ISTANBUL

Arrival in Istanbul, reception at the airport by the local operator, and transfer to the hotel. The afternoon is free for personal activities. In the evening, we will visit the city center, where you can explore Istanbul's most famous street, "İstiklal Caddesi," also known in English as "The Independence Street." Here you will find the iconic Galata Tower, a remnant of the Genoese colony in Istanbul. The tower stands tall on the Galata Walls at the entrance to the Golden Horn. With its cylindrical structure, the tower dominates the city skyline and is one of Istanbul's most visited attractions.

In the same area, you will find boutiques, music stores, bookstores, art galleries, cinemas, theaters, libraries, cafés, pubs, restaurants, historic pastry shops, chocolatiers, and dining spots. We will enjoy free time exploring this vibrant area. Afterwards, we will return to the hotel for check-in and overnight accommodation.

Accommodation	ISTANBUL Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 02: ISTANBUL / Byzantine Heritage Tour

Breakfast at the hotel. We will spend the day exploring Istanbul's historic old town. The tour begins with a visit to the Forum of Constantine, one of the city's earliest landmarks, built during the founding of Byzantium. At its center, stands the Column of Constantine, known today as Çemberlitaş, erected in the 4th century and still visible today.

We then continue to the Basilica Cistern, an impressive underground reservoir from the 6th century, often called the Sunken Palace. Afterward, we will visit the Hagia Sophia, a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture built by Emperor Justinian. This iconic structure has

served as a basilica, a mosque, a museum, and is now again a mosque, symbolizing the rich religious history of Istanbul.
Our tour continues to the Roman Hippodrome, built in 203 AD and later expanded by Constantine the Great. Once used for chariot races and public events, it now features ancient monuments and obelisks. Next, we visit the famous Blue Mosque, known for its six minarets and stunning interior decorated with over 20,000 blue tiles.

We will end our day at the Grand Bazaar, the largest covered market in the world, with around 4,000 shops spread over 30,000 square meters. After this immersive experience, we return to the hotel for overnight accommodation.

Accommodation	ISTANBUL Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 03: ISTANBUL / Intercontinental Bosporus

Breakfast at the hotel. The day begins with a visit to the iconic Süleymaniye Mosque, one of the most important Ottoman landmarks, perched on a hill overlooking the Golden Horn. Its grand dome and towering minarets are visible from across the city, making it a dominant feature of Istanbul's skyline.

Before lunch, we will stop at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George, the main Greek Orthodox cathedral in Istanbul and the seat of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since the 1600s, serving as a spiritual center for Orthodox Christians worldwide.

After enjoying a typical local lunch, we will embark on a scenic Bosporus boat tour. As we sail between the continents, we will pass by elegant mosques, Ottoman palaces, charming wooden mansions, and impressive suspension bridges that connect Europe and Asia.

The day concludes with a visit to the Spice Bazaar, a 17th-century marketplace still buzzing with colors, aromas, and flavors. It is a paradise for lovers of international cuisine, offering everything from exotic spices to Turkish delights.
Return to the hotel for overnight.

Accommodation	ISTANBUL Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 04: ISTANBUL - ANKARA - CAPPADOCIA

Breakfast. Departure from the hotel. We head towards Ankara, the capital of Turkey, to visit the Mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic. Atatürk is a central figure in Turkish history, known for leading the country through significant reforms that transitioned it into a modern republic. His role as the first president remains an important aspect of Turkish national identity, and many people visit his Mausoleum annually to honor his memory.

On the way, we will pass by Tuz Gölü, the Salt Lake, the second largest lake in Turkey, known for its vast expanse of salt. We continue towards Cappadocia, a historic region in Central Anatolia, covering the provinces of Kayseri, Aksaray, Niğde, and Nevşehir. This region is famous for its unique geological formations, the result of volcanic activity that has created stunning rock formations.

Before reaching the hotel, we will visit a local pottery workshop, one of Cappadocia's ancient traditions. Dinner and accommodation.

Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride: For those interested, an optional hot air balloon ride is available (at an additional cost) to witness the breathtaking landscape of Cappadocia at sunrise. This is one of the top three destinations in the world recommended for a hot air balloon ride, offering unique panoramic views of the region's natural formations.

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 will visit the Göreme Open-Air Museum with its rock-carved churches, and then continue to the valleys of Pasabag and Güvercinlik to admire the iconic Fairy Chimneys. We will also explore Love Valley, famous for its striking rock formations.

The tour ends with a visit to a local gemstone workshop. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Accommodation	CAPPADOCIA Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 06: CAPPADOCIA - PAMUKKALE

Breakfast. Early departure to Pamukkale, with a stop at the largest caravanserai in Anatolia, Sultanhanı, built by Sultan Alaeddin Kayqubad I (1221–1237) to promote and facilitate regional trade. Later, we will pass through Konya, the largest city in Anatolia and the cultural hub of the Whirling Dervishes. Upon arriving in Denizli, we will visit Hierapolis, an ancient Greco-Roman city known for its rich history and well-preserved ruins.

We will also explore Pamukkale ("Cotton Castle"), a true natural wonder. This extraordinary site features a giant cascading formation of stalactites and natural pools created over centuries by thermal waters rich in calcium carbonate. Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation	PAMUKKALE Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 07: PAMUKKALE - EPHESUS - KUSADASI

Breakfast. Departure to Ephesus, the best-preserved Greco-Roman city in Asia Minor. Highlights include the Magnesia Gate, marble streets, the Library of Celsus, Odeon, Temple of Hadrian, Fountain of Trajan, and the Great Theater with a 25,000-seat capacity.

We will also visit the House of the Virgin Mary, an important Catholic pilgrimage site. The day ends in Kusadasi, with a stop at a leather workshop. Dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation	KUSADASI Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 08: KUSADASI

Breakfast. Free day for relaxation or personal activities. Optional Tour: Greek Island of Chios (at an additional cost): At the scheduled time, transfer to Çeşme port for the ferry to Chios. The tour begins with the island's historic windmills, followed by a visit to a village known for its unique mastic production.

We'll explore Kambos with its Genoese-style houses, and Armolia, surrounded by mastic trees. Next is the medieval village of Mesta, with its Byzantine-era streets and Orthodox church, then Pyrgi, known for its geometric house designs and links to Columbus.

Afterward, enjoy Greek cuisine at Mavra Volia, a volcanic beach. We end with a short walk in the town center before returning by ferry to Turkey. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay..

Accommodation	KUSADASI Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 09: KUSADASI – BURSA – ISTANBUL

Breakfast. Departure towards Bursa. Panoramic tour of this important city, the first capital of the Ottoman Empire. Visit the Green Mosque, one of the main mosques of the city and among the most beautiful in all of Turkey. We will also visit the Green Tomb, the burial site of one of the most significant sultans, Mehmet I. There will be an opportunity to stroll through the Silk Market, where you can admire antiques, silks, perfumes, and pashminas. Arrival at the hotel. Overnight stay.

Accommodation	ISTANBUL Hotel	Meal Plan: Dinner & Overnight

Day 10: ISTANBUL – RETURN

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

End of Program

Price Included:

- 10 days / 9 nights
- Airport - Hotel - Airport transfers
- 5-star hotels
- 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 9 dinners
- 4 nights of accommodation in Istanbul
- 2 nights of accommodation in Cappadocia
- 1 night of accommodation in Pamukkale
- 2 night of accommodation in Kusadasi
- Professional English-speaking guides
- Visits included as per itinerary:
  - Galata Tour
  - Intercontinental Bosporus Tour
- Air-conditioned coach with Wi-Fi
- 2 bottles of water per day per passenger
- Taxes
- 24/7 assistance via WhatsApp

Price excluded:

- Optional excursions or personal expenses