Treasures of Turkey: From Istanbul to the Turquoise Coast
15 Days, 14 Nights

*Experience the best of both Europe and Asia in a single journey through the heart of Turkey. This meticulously crafted 15-day itinerary takes you from **Istanbul**'s iconic skyline to the fairy-chimney landscapes of **Cappadocia**, the legendary ruins of **Ephesus**, and the sun-kissed **Turquoise Coast**, where the water hovers around a pleasant 70–75°F. Guided by seasoned local experts, you'll explore world-renowned historic sites, savor the finest regional dishes,*

*and drift along sparkling seas aboard a **traditional gulet**. Unlike typical tours, this immersive experience offers authentic cultural connections, direct contact with locals, and a firsthand glimpse into Turkey's unique blend of Eastern and Western traditions. With every detail—from hotel bookings to **cultural experiences**—tailored to your comfort, this **all-inclusive adventure** ensures you can focus on what truly matters: making memories that last a lifetime.*

Day 1 - ISTANBUL (September 24, 2025 Wednesday)
Arrive in Istanbul and either make your own way to the hotel or contact us (Runner Tourism) for private airport transfers. We'll meet at 5:00 PM at the hotel for a brief orientation, followed by a welcome dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Note: If you'd like pre- or post-tour activities in Istanbul—or elsewhere in Turkey, such as visits to Troy and Pergamon or gourmet tours with hands-on cooking lessons—just let us know, and we'd be happy to help arrange them.
Overnight: *Vogue Supreme Hotel or similar*
Included Meals: Dinner

Day 2 - ISTANBUL (September 25, 2025 Thursday)
We will start our tour in the heart of Constantinople's Hippodrome, where chariot races and Byzantine riots took place. Our visit will continue to what was once a great palace and is now Sultanahmet Mosque (the Blue Mosque), dating back to the 17th century A.D. Next, we'll visit the Grand Bazaar. Lunch will be street food, featuring local fresh fish sandwiches, mussels, corn, and pickles.
Among the vendors' shops, a short walk will take us to the Spice Market, which once served as an herbal pharmacy of the Ottoman Empire. In the afternoon, we will take a small private boat for a relaxing cruise on the Bosphorus, the narrow strait dividing Europe from Asia. The waterfront at the famous Golden Horn is crowded with bustling, rather elderly ships that still ferry tens of thousands of passengers between the continents each day. We hope to see some of the raptors and storks that migrate through this area on their way from Africa to Eurasia. We also have a good chance of seeing harbor porpoises in the strait.

Overnight: *Vogue Supreme Hotel or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 3 - ISTANBUL (September 26, 2025 Friday)
We start our day with a visit to the imperial nerve center of the Ottoman Empire, the magnificent Topkapi Palace. We'll explore the different sections of the palace, including the opulent Harem and the vast treasury, where we can marvel at the lavish collections of jewels and artifacts. After lunch, we'll visit the iconic Hagia Sophia, dedicated in AD 537 by Emperor Justinian. This architectural wonder, with its stunning dome and intricate mosaics, stands as a testament to the grandeur of its time. Our final stop will be the Basilica Cistern, an extraordinary underground reservoir dating back to the Byzantine period in the 6th century A.D. This atmospheric site, with its forest of ancient columns, will leave us in awe of Byzantine engineering. In the evening, we will reconvene for a delightful group dinner, in a "meyhane" which serves seafood together with fresh mezes.

Overnight: *Vogue Supreme Hotel or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 4 - IZMIR, KUSADASI (flight day) (September 27, 2025 Saturday)
Our journey continues to the southwest, with a short morning flight. A delightful lunch awaits us at a local restaurant in Sirince Village (meaning "the cute village"), where we can stroll through its narrow cobblestone streets and sample some of the region's famous fruit wines. Our final destination for the day is Kusadasi, where we check in to our hotel in the afternoon to enjoy the sunset over the Aegean Sea before a refreshing cocktail around the pool.

Overnight: *La Vista Boutique Hotel or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 5 - KUSADASI, EPHESUS (September 28, 2025 Sunday)
After breakfast, we have a half an hour drive to the town of Selcuk to visit the marvelous Greco-Roman ruins of **Ephesus**, the fabulously preserved city where St. Paul passed through and St.John lived. We will visit the Terrace Houses, the Experience Museum. Ephesus allowed freedom for its inhabitants during its history, which included those who followed the Jewish, Anatolian, Roman or Egyptian faith, as well as the first traces of Christianity.The result was a wonderful mixture of cultures. Ephesus was once ancient Ionia, a center for the cult of Cybele, the Anatolian fertility goddess. Under the influence of the Ionians Cybele became Artemis and a fabulous temple was built to honor her. Ephesus used the be the home for one of the seven wonders of the ancient world; the Temple of Artemis, nothing remains anymore. Our dinner

will be at a nearby restaurant.

Overnight: *La Vista Boutique Hotel or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 6 - BOARD OUR YACHT MARMARIS (September 29, 2025 Monday)
Today, we begin with a scenic drive towards Marmaris, following a route that hugs the stunning coastline. Along the way, we'll pass through fertile farmlands and climb gently into the surrounding mountains, offering spectacular views. We continue to the ancient city of Didyma, where we'll explore the ruins of the Temple of Apollo, one of the most magnificent ancient sanctuaries in the region. Lunch will be served close by to the temple.

By mid-afternoon, we arrive in the vibrant coastal town of Marmaris, where we board our traditional Turkish gulet. Our captain and crew will greet us, and we'll settle into our comfortable cabins before cruising for Ekincik Cove. The evening will be spent on board, enjoying a delicious dinner under the stars as we anchor in the peaceful cove.

A gulet is a locally crafted motorized sailing vessel, typically around 70 feet in length, constructed from teakwood and oak. It features 6-8 double cabins, each equipped with a private bath and hot shower. The crew consists of a full-time trio: captain, cook, and mate. Onboard amenities include spacious foredecks ideal for sunbathing, a covered afterdeck serving as a dining and lounging area, and a small indoor lounge. When anchored offshore, a small motorboat ferries guests to shore. Sailing is typically smooth from May to October, with calm sea conditions close to the shore. Water temperatures average 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, offering crystal-clear depths of 30 feet or more. Gulets provide an authentic experience of Turkey's coastal seafaring life, offering a serene and intimate exploration of the region while maintaining luxurious comfort. Additionally, they feature water toys like snorkeling gear, fishing rods, wakeboards, and water skis, adding to the enjoyment of the journey.

Overnight: *On board yacht Ali Candan or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 7 - ON BOARD: *DALYAN* (September 30, 2025 Tuesday)
Today, we explore the scenic Dalyan River Delta. After a leisurely breakfast on board, we'll take a small boat up the river, passing through reed-lined channels that have been a sanctuary for wildlife for millennia. Keep your eyes

peeled for loggerhead turtles, which still nest on the shores of Iztuzu Beach, one of the most important conservation sites in Turkey. As we cruise, we'll see the impressive Lycian tombs carved high into the cliffs, dating back over 2,000 years.
We'll have the option to visit the ancient city of **Kaunos**, where we can hike through the well-preserved ruins. Afterward, we'll return to the gulet to relax and enjoy another beautiful dinner on board as we sail towards our next destination.

Overnight: *On board yacht Ali Candan or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 8 - ON BOARD: *AGALİMANI* (October 01, 2025 Wednesday)
This morning, we'll wake up to the turquoise waters of the Aegean. After breakfast, we'll visit Cleopatra's Sunken Bath, a partially submerged ruin rumored to have been a gift from Mark Antony to Cleopatra. We can swim in the crystal-clear waters or explore the nearby shoreline. Afterward, we'll continue to Sea Gull Bay for a hike to the Lydea Ruins, where we'll enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding islands and sea. At noon, we return to our gulet for a relaxing lunch and siesta.

Overnight: *On board yacht Ali Candan or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 9 - ON BOARD: *FETHIYE- GEMILER ISLAND* (October 02, 2025 Thursday)
Today's adventure takes us to Gemiler Island, known for its extensive Byzantine ruins and breathtaking views. After a short morning sail, we'll hike the island's paths, visiting ancient churches and tombs that date back to early Christianity. Lunch will be on board as we enjoy the serenity of this beautiful island, followed by some free time to swim or snorkel in the clear waters. Dinner will be served on deck, where we'll soak in the island's peaceful atmosphere.

Overnight: *On board yacht Ali Candan or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 10 - *ON BOARD: TURQUOISE FETHIYE COVES* (October 03, 2025 Friday)

After breakfast, we'll anchor near Kayaköy, a ghost village with a poignant history. We'll embark on a hike through the abandoned stone houses and churches, which tell the story of the population exchanges between Greece and Turkey in the early 20th century. Our hike will take us to the nearby Soğuk Su Cove, a secluded bay perfect for a refreshing swim. In the late afternoon, we'll sail to Fethiye Harbor, where we'll enjoy a traditional dinner at the vibrant fish market. Choose from the day's fresh catch and have it prepared just the way you like at one of the local restaurants.

Overnight: *On board yacht Ali Candan or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 11 - DISEMBARK in FETHIYE - ANTALYA (October 04, 2025 Saturday)

Drive from Fethiye to Antalya along the Lycian Coastline. Travel through the scenic Taurus Mountains en route to the Mediterranean coastal city of Antalya. We'll head to Gulluk Dag National Park in the Taurus Mountains. Here, wilderness surrounds the ruins of the 3rd Century B.C. Pisidian fortress-city of Termessos. We'll drive into the hills and walk up to the city's ruins, including a grand theater seating over 4,000 people, ancient cisterns in the agora, and the Temple of Artemis. We'll arrive in Antalya Old Town by afternoon. Once a quaint fishing village, Antalya has grown into a vibrant coastal resort, blending untouched beaches and contemporary homes with its ancient, walled Old Town. The city's architecture showcases over 2,000 years of history and cultural influences. Check-in to your hotel and wind down before the dinner in the Old Town, in walking distance to our hotel

Overnight: *Ruin Adalia or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 12 - ANTALYA (October 05, 2025 Sunday)

Today, we embark on a fascinating journey east of Antalya to visit the finest theater in all of Turkey, Aspendos. Built by the Romans, maintained by the Selçuks, and restored by Atatürk, Aspendos showcases remarkable ancient architecture. After our visit, we will drive along a scenic route leading to Koprulu Canyon National Park. This road crosses clear mountain river waters, passing through virgin forests and waterfalls.

Our destination is the ancient city of Selge, perched atop the park. Notable for its steep cleft valley, the area features "Devil's Rocks" in karst topography form. This region is home to the world's thickest Mediterranean Cypress forest, valued since ancient times. We will enjoy a 2-3 hour hike through Devil's Rocks' forests, experiencing the stunning scenery. Tonight's dinner is on your own with the assistance of your guide's recommended restaurants.
Overnight: *Ruin Adalia or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 13 - CAPPADOCIA (October 06, 2025 Monday)
Travel through the scenic Taurus Mountains en route to the dramatic and enchanting landscapes of Cappadocia, prepare to be captivated by the unique beauty and rich cultural heritage that lies ahead. On the way, we'll pause in Konya, a city rich in Seljuk heritage and the heart of the Mevlevi order, known for the Whirling Dervishes. In Konya, we'll explore the Mevlana Museum, dedicated to the famous poet and mystic Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, and visit the former dervish lodge that now houses his tomb. Rumi, later called Mevlana, was the founder of the Mevlevi order and is celebrated as one of the most influential spiritual and literary figures in history. We'll arrive in Cappadocia by late afternoon. Upon arrival, after checking into our hotel, we will be having dinner in a local restaurant that serves the local delicacies of the Cappadocia region.
Overnight: *Kalekonak Cave Hotel or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 14 - CAPPADOCIA (October 07, 2025 Tuesday)
This morning you will have an option to join for an early morning hot air ballooning excursion. Cappadocia, one of Turkey's most captivating regions, begins with a morning exploration of the underground cities of Derinkuyu, inhabited during the 7th to 10th centuries when the Christian Cappadocians were under siege from Arab invaders. We then walk down into a valley adorned with stunning rock formations, cliff dwellings, and village gardens. After lunch, we continue to the vineyard-dotted Goreme Valley for a visit to the Goreme Open-air Museum. This UNESCO World Heritage site boasts a wealth of rock churches adorned with well-preserved cave paintings, illuminated by natural light filtering through the rocks. In the evening, we immerse ourselves in the art of rug weaving at a local cooperative, learning about this traditional Turkish craft. Back to the hotel, relaxing in the garden, and meeting for the farewell dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Overnight: *Kalekonak Cave Hotel or similar*
Included Meals: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 15 RETURN FLIGHT to ISTANBUL (flight day) - (October 08, 2025 Wednesday)
After breakfast, a private transfer will take you to Kayseri or Nevsehir airport to catch the group flight back to Istanbul International Airport. The tour ends.

Please feel free to ask for any further travel services to your local tour operator.
Overnight: *-*
Included Meals: *Breakfast*

TOUR DATES

Arrival in Istanbul (Start of Tour): September 24, 2025 Wednesday

Tour Ends in Istanbul (Return Flight): October 08, 2025 Wednesday

Note: This tour is adults only, with a minimum of 6 guests and a maximum of 14. If you'd prefer a private experience tailored to your family or close-knit group, please contact us and we'll gladly customize the itinerary for your needs.

PRICE PER PERSON (USD): $6,800
Rate is per person price on double occupancy (sharing both a hotel room and a boat cabin).

Single Supplement:

- *Hotel: $990 per person*
- *Boat cabin: Please inquire for single-cabin availability and pricing.*

What's Included?
- 9 Nights of hotel accommodations in standard rooms (deluxe rooms in some of the hotels) as indicated in the itinerary or similar
- 5 nights of Luxury traditional wooden gulet (traditional Turkish boats) accommodation with dinghy, galley, outdoor sun-bathing area, and snorkeling equipment and water toys.

- Air-conditioned cabins with private showers and bathrooms. Mattresses, towels, and bed linen (changed once within a week tour)
- Meals with bottled water as indicated: Breakfast (14 breakfast), Lunch (13 lunches), Dinner (13 dinners). Most of the meals in restaurants and onboard with private chef specializing in the local cuisine
- All the local soft beverages on board during the yacht part of the tour program
- Two glasses of local wine or two bottles of local beer per person per day during the yacht part of the tour program
- English-speaking licenced local professional guide throughout the journey
- Air-conditioned vehicle with professional tour driver and its gasoline
- Hotel tips and restaurant tips in included meals
- Two domestic flights in economy class.
    - *Istanbul to Izmir and Cappadocia to Istanbul (All flight times are under 2 hours)*
    - *Economy Class (44lbs check-in, 17 lbs carry on luggage included) we prefer Turkish Airlines and Pegasus for the flights.*
- Complete program of tours as indicated in the itinerary. All entrance fees, admissions, and parking fees
- Baggage handling
- Embarkation fees in the yacht harbors
- VAT and 2% Accommodation Tax in the hotel

What's excluded?

- International airfares, airport taxes and fuel surcharges
- Alcoholic beverages during the meals on the land and yacht portion of the tour.
    - *Alcoholic beverages are excluded except for the two glasses of local wine or two bottles of local beer per person per day, provided during the yacht portion.*
- Visa (if applicable, it can be obtained online, https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/)
    - *At the moment USA, Canada and UK citizens are exempt from visa for tourist visits of up to 90 days within 180 days starting from the first entry date. (visa regulations can change).*
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and gulet crew
- Personal expenses such as laundry, telephones calls, minibar expenses, etc.
- Personal travel and health insurance

Deposit & Payment Schedule

- *A **$2,000 per person** deposit is required upon reservation.*
- *%50 of this amount is paid directly to the boat owner as boat.*
- *In the event of a cancellation, this %50 boat deposit is only refundable if another customer rebooks the same dates.*
- *The **remaining balance** is due **121 days** before departure.*

(These industry-standard policies help protect boat owners and secure all arrangements in advance.)

Cancellation Policy

- ***91+ Days Before Departure:** The $750 per-person deposit is forfeited.*
- ***61–90 Days Before Departure: 50%** of the total tour payment is forfeited.*
- ***31–60 Days Before Departure: 75%** of the total tour payment is forfeited.*
- ***0–30 Days Before Departure: 100%** of the total tour payment is forfeited.*

***Note:** The separate **boat deposit** follows the owners' rebooking policy, as noted above.*

Important Note on Itinerary & Accommodations

While every effort is made to follow the published itinerary and use the listed accommodations, unforeseen circumstances (including weather, operational requirements, or other factors beyond our control) may necessitate changes. In such cases, we reserve the right to alter the schedule, route, or accommodations to comparable alternatives, ensuring you receive a similar level of service and comfort.

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