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ANCIENT CORINTH, ATHENS & ISTANBUL TOUR

✓ 14 Days / 13 Nights. ✓ Starting Point - Athens ✓ Ending Point - Istanbul

Day 1: Ancient Corinth & Athens

Experience a full-day tour of Ancient Corinth and Athens, guided by an official English-speaking expert. Begin with a scenic drive along the coastal highway, stopping at the iconic Corinth Canal. Explore Ancient Corinth, visiting key sites like the Bema, Temple of Apollo, and Pyrene Fountain. Enjoy a traditional lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Athens. Discover the Acropolis, featuring masterpieces from Athens' Golden Age, including the Parthenon and Erechtheion. In the evening, partake in the Zafiro Experience Night Tour with dinner, folk music, and dancing lessons. Conclude your day with an overnight stay in Athens. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 02: Athens - Santorini

Breakfast in the hotel. Transfer to Athens airport/port and take the Flight/Boat (Tickets Not Included in the package) to the island of Santorini. Meet at Santorini airport/port and transfer to a local restaurant for lunch (starters, salad, main course, dessert). Transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day free at leisure (Coach & English-Speaking Assistant Service Included). Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight in Santorini. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).



Day 03: Santorini Island Tour

Embark on a full-day Santorini Island tour, starting with breakfast at your hotel. Accompanied by an English-speaking assistant, visit the charming village of Megalochori and ascend to Prophet Elias for stunning views (exterior only). Relax at the black beaches of Perivolos or Perissa before enjoying a traditional lunch at a local restaurant. Afterward, explore Pyrgos village and visit a local winery for a delightful wine tasting. Conclude your day in Oia, renowned for its breathtaking views and iconic architecture. After exploring, return to your hotel for dinner and an overnight stay in Santorini. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 04: Athens - Kalambaka (Meteora)

Breakfast in the hotel. Visit Meteora with its impressive scenery, visit 2 monasteries, suspended between earth and sky. Inside, see priceless historical and religious treasures. Lunch at a local restaurant (starters, salad, main course, dessert). Depart to Kalambaka. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight in Kalambaka. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 05: Kalambaka - Veria - Vergina

Breakfast in the hotel. Depart to Kalambaka, the town nestling at the foot of Meteora. Lunch at a local restaurant (starters, salad, main course, dessert). Drive north to the mountain town of Veria and see the Bema from where St. Paul preached the gospel. Drive to Vergina, once the capital of the Macedonian kingdom and nowadays one of the most important archeological sites of Greece. Visit of the museum with the Royal tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. Drive along the coast to Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece. Lunch at a local restaurant (starters, salad, main course, dessert). See the White Tower, (the symbol of the city), the Church of St. Dimitrios, Arch of Galerius, Rotunda, Roman Agora. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki hotel. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 06: Thessaloniki - Kavala - Canakkale

Embark on a scenic drive along the coastal road to Kavala, known as Biblical Neapolis, where St. Paul landed from Troy. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the ancient city of Philippi, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring the Agora, Octagon, and St. Paul's prison. Explore the Gallipoli Peninsula, a protected landscape with historical significance from World War I. Cross the impressive 1915 Canakkale Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in the world at 2023 meters. Conclude your day with a visit to the iconic wooden Trojan horse replica in Canakkale. Dinner and overnight stay in Canakkale are included. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).



Day 07: Pergamon - Thyatira - Izmir

After breakfast, drive to Pergamon and north to the hauntingly beautiful Pergamon. Among the impressive structures of this city, dating from 299 BC, we will see the Trajanum, Altar of Zeus, Temple of Dionysus, Theater and the 200,000 volume library which was surpassed only by that found in Alexandria at the time. The Asclepieum of Pergamon was a famous health center where methods of treatment included blood transfusions, music therapy and meditation. Breakfast and check-out at the hotel. We will have a short stop in Thyatira to view the ancient roadway and period columns. This is one of the principal towns where Christianity spread quickly. Overnight in Izmir. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 08: Izmir - Ephesus

After breakfast, begin your day exploring the archaeological remains of ancient Smyrna, one of the Seven Churches mentioned by the Apostle John. Next, visit the House of the Virgin Mary on Mt. Coressos, a site declared sacred by Pope John XXIII in 1961. Continue to Ephesus, where you'll see iconic landmarks such as the Library of Celsus, Agora, Temple of Hadrian, Fountain of Trajan, and Theatre, along with vibrant mosaics and panoramic views of the ancient port area. Finally, visit the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist, who wrote his Gospels in Ephesus. Dinner and overnight stay in Izmir are included. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 09: Sardis - Philadelphia - Laodicea

After breakfast, drive to Sardis, criticized by John for its false strength. Explore the site where coins were minted and dyeing originated, including the Temple of Artemis, gymnasium, and synagogue. Next, visit nearby Philadelphia, known as the "New Jerusalem" in Revelation, where remnants include an ancient wall and a Byzantine Basilica in Alasehir. Continue to Pamukkale before heading to Laodicea, home to extensive ruins such as a stadium and advanced water system. Christianity arrived during St. Paul's time, and Laodicea became a significant bishopric and site of an important Ecumenical Council. Transfer to your hotel for check-in and overnight stay in Pamukkale. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 10: Pamukkale - Konya

After breakfast and hotel check-out, visit Hierapolis, an ancient center for pagan cults that became a Christian hub in the first century, where tradition holds that the Apostle Philip lived and was martyred. Explore the famous white calcium cascades of Pamukkale, known as the "Cotton Castles." Next, drive to Konya, the heart of the Seljuk Empire and home to the Mevlana Museum. Discover the legacy of Mevlana and the city's renowned Whirling Dervishes. Finally, continue your journey to Cappadocia. Overnight stay in Konya are included. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).



Day 11: Konya - Cappadocia

After breakfast, drive to Cappadocia and we will visit Carpet School and Pottery Workshop. then we visit Kaymakli Underground City which is the second biggest underground city in Cappadocia. Kaymakli underground city is a place where the Christians communities lived in underground city as a refuge and you will see the usual rooms such as stables, kitchens, cellars, storages rooms, churches, wineries. we drive to Goreme Open Air Museum is a place where you can visit carved churches and chapels and monasteries. The churches were painted with frescoes from between 10th and 13th centuries. Overnight in Cappadocia. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 12: Cappadocia - Istanbul

Domestic Flight; TBA.

Today, we start to visit Jewellery Workshop & Center. Photostop for Pigeon Valley. After lunch, we drive to Devrent Valley where you can see various types of fairy chimneys like mushroom shape and animal shape. Transfer to Airport for domestic flight to Istanbul. Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in Istanbul. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).



Day 13: Istanbul

Today, we start with shopping at the Turkish Delights, then visit Hippodrome - once a stadium used traditionally for horse and chariot racing, Blue Mosque - the only mosque in Istanbul with six minarets and a treasury of some of Turkey's greatest artworks and artifacts, Then we will visit The Hagia Sophia, with its innovative architecture, rich history, religious significance and extraordinary characteristics has been fighting against time for centuries, is the largest Eastern Roman Church in Istanbul and finally The Topkapi Palace - the seat of the Ottoman Empire after it shifted its capital from Bursa to Istanbul. It is today, a museum palace with a wide collection of Kitchen wares and Porcelains, Treasuries and etc. and Overnight in Istanbul. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 14: Istanbul

After breakfast, we will enjoy Bosphorus cruise with Yacht and experience the magnificent view between Asia and Europe. Free time at Spice Bazaar. After lunch, transfer to airport for Istanbul... Thanks for visiting Turkey



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