



TURKEY: A JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY – A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2025)

Discover the rich and diverse historical landscape of Turkey, exploring the best the nation has to offer, from exquisite Istanbul to archaeological wonders that date from earliest antiquity to the Ottoman Empire, enjoying privileged access and scholarly guiding throughout your journey.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Europe, Turkey



11 days from AU\$18,965 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

Discover the rich and diverse historical landscape of Turkey, exploring the best the nation has to offer, from exquisite Istanbul to archaeological wonders that date from earliest antiquity to the Ottoman Empire, enjoying privileged access and scholarly guiding throughout your journey.

Journey Highlights

- Explore Topkapi Palace and the magnificent Hagia Sophia, and stroll the fabled Grand Bazaar in Istanbul
- On a day trip to ancient Ephesus, learn firsthand about the amazing archaeological discoveries made in this one-time home of Saint Paul
- Discover Turkey’s rich culinary heritage as you visit a traditional farmers market in historic Ephesus, savour a cooking demonstration in the countryside and stroll a spice market in Istanbul
- Privately cruise the Bosphorus, passing magnificent palaces, mansions and gardens along the shore
- Experience authentic Cappadocian culture when you join a local family for lunch in their home, set amid the stunning “fairy chimney” landscape



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Istanbul, Turkey

Arrive in Istanbul, where you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet

Day 2: Istanbul | Hagia Sophia & Private Bosphorus Cruise

Rise early for a private, before-hours opening of the Turkish & Islamic Arts Museum. See the Basilica Cistern, its marble columns still standing since the sixth century, and then continue to the timeless Hagia Sophia. Marvel at the structure's imposing façade, matched only by the grandeur of its vaulted ceilings. Then, explore the ancient Hippodrome, which once hosted chariot races, and the city walls, dating to various eras of the city's storied history. After lunch, embark on a private cruise of the Bosphorus to raise a refreshing Scenic Sundowner as you gaze out over its enchanting waters. Tonight, gather for a welcome dinner.

Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet | Meals: BLD

Day 3: Istanbul | Wonders of Topkapi Palace

Revel in the ornately decorated ceilings and spectacular tile work of Topkapi Palace, the one-time imperial residence of Ottoman sultans, and then view highlights of the Istanbul Archaeological Museum. Fly to Bodrum, check in to your hotel and relax before dinner.

The Marmara Bodrum | Meals: BD

Day 4: Bodrum | Oldest Shipwreck & Exclusive Access

Stop by the ancient Theatre of Halicarnassus before visiting the Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum in the Castle of St. Peter, which houses the oldest shipwreck ever discovered. Gain A&K-exclusive private access to the research and conservation laboratories. Next, savour a Chef's Table cooking demonstration at a charming restaurant founded by a local self-taught gourmet chef who shares some of her secrets. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.

The Marmara Bodrum | Meals: BL

Day 5: Euromos | Temples of Zeus, Apollo & Athena

Journey to Euromos to explore the ruined yet magnificent Temple of Zeus. Continue to Didyma to discover the Temple of Apollo, dating to at least 300 BC. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant. Then, proceed to Priene for a walking tour at the age-old Temple of Athena before continuing to Izmir, where you enjoy dinner.

Swissotel Buyuk Efes | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Ephesus | Historic Archaeological Dig

Embark on a day trip to Ephesus, where Saint Paul once lived. Explore the renowned archaeological park and museum here as well as the weekly farmers market's vibrant product stalls, before enjoying a special lunch in a nearby village. Return to Izmir for an afternoon and evening at leisure.

Swissotel Buyuk Efes | Meals: BL

Day 7: Cappadocia | Fairy Chimneys & Frescoes

Fly via Istanbul to Cappadocia and explore the nearby volcanic stone "fairy chimneys." Later, on an A&K-exclusive experience, enjoy private, after-hours access to the rock-carved churches of Goreme, and visit the Dark Church, before dining at your hotel.

Argos in Cappadocia | Meals: BD

Day 8: Cappadocia | The Ancient Art of Weaving

This morning, opt for a hot air balloon excursion over Cappadocia. Afterward, visit the Goreme Weavers Association on an engaging artisan visit. Then, sit down with a local family for lunch at their home. In the afternoon, explore a fascinating, centuries-old underground city that includes chapels, kitchens, air vents and dwellings carved out of volcanic rock.

Argos in Cappadocia | Meals: BL

Day 9: Istanbul | Seat of a Mighty Empire

Today, fly back to Istanbul. This afternoon, visit Dolmabahce Palace, once a seat of Ottoman power, and see the collection of Ottoman royal barges, a hidden gem of the city.

Shangri-La Bosphorus, Istanbul | Meals: B

Day 10: Istanbul | Ottoman Architecture & The Grand Bazaar

Embark by public ferry along the Bosphorus to explore Suleymaniye Mosque and the Grand Bazaar, and stroll the fragrant spice market. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner.

Shangri-La Bosphorus, Istanbul | Meals: BLD

Day 11: Depart Istanbul

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to depart.

Meals: B

Journey Details

Internal Air Included: Istanbul/Bodrum; Izmir/Istanbul/Kayseri/Istanbul
Minimum age is 13 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 8:00 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 10.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy® Luggage Handling
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke tailor-made journey based on this itinerary.

Map



Accommodation

Swissotel Büyük Efes



Set in expansive landscaped gardens and overlooking the Kordon on Turkey's Aegean Sea, the Swissotel Büyük Efes is Izmir's best. Accommodation is offered in 457 luxury rooms and suites. Celebrated Colombian artist, Fernando Botero's sculpture, "Man on Horse", stands at the entrance of the hotel and leads guests into a living, breathing gallery of more than 800 artistic masterpieces from around the world, from emerging Turkish artists to established names such as Rabarama, Lorenzo Quinn, Mike Berg and Anthony Gormley. A selection of traditional Turkish and contemporary cuisine is on offer plus Pürovel Spa&Sport for health and wellbeing.

Argos in Cappadocia



The Argos Hotel is set in the centre of Cappadocia, famous for its distinctive “fairy house” rock formations and ancient archaeological sites. Gaze out over enchanting churches, monasteries, mansions and the distant Cappadocia Plateau beyond.

Choose from stunning accommodation options including stone houses and mansion rooms. All are furnished with opulent antique rugs and blankets. Some even feature private cave pools. Your immediate atmosphere is steeped in the quaintness of local Turkish life. Your window views capture the open landscape in all its glory. Stroll through tunnels and gardens as you explore the hotel and discover its amenities.

Seki Restaurant showcases the culinary highlights of Cappadocia. Savour locally sourced ingredients and sample high-quality regional wines. Regular concerts are held in the serene atmosphere of Bazirhane, an ancient building with natural acoustics. Be sure to partake in hot air balloon rides, bird watching, hikes and historic adventures on this fabled landscape.

Why we like it

- Restored historic building with tunnels and caves
- Some rooms offer private cave pools
- Stunning quintessentially Cappadocian views
- Delightful locally sourced dining
- The wine cellar includes local and home-grown wines

Shangri-La Bosphorus



The Shangri-La Bosphorus is a grand 19th-century palace cum luxury hotel in the heart of Istanbul, fronting the Bosphorus Strait. This property is immediately recognisable by its distinctive façade. Prepare to be stunned by intricate arched windows, ornamental rows of pilasters and the elegant double cornice of this impressive edifice. The exceptional service begins the moment you step into the impressive foyer.

Throughout the hotel, window views showcase the picturesque waterfront and the glorious cityscape of Istanbul. The rooms and suites are expertly furnished with Ottoman designs and historic and contemporary artworks, complimented by good amounts of space and natural light.

Wind down by one of the two outdoor pools with cabanas and loungers with views to the shores of Asian Turkey. You will also find a large indoor pool at the highly commended spa. Four stunning restaurants offer the finest flavours of the Near East. Dine in the best outdoor viewing points and most sumptuous spaces within this palace hotel.

Why we like it

- A former palace surrounded by lavish gardens
- Impressive views of the waterfront and the city
- Ottoman style rooms with splendid artworks
- Fantastic choice of restaurants and pools

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Apr 21, 2025 - May 1, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

May 6, 2025 - May 16, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

May 20, 2025 - May 30, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

Jun 10, 2025 - Jun 20, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

Aug 26, 2025 - Sep 5, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 2, 2025 - Sep 12, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 16, 2025 - Sep 26, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 6, 2025 - Oct 16, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 14, 2025 - Oct 24, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 27, 2025 - Nov 6, 2025

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$18,965 pp	AU\$8,105	Included	Call for Availability

Abercrombie & Kent

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