

FABULOUS TURKEY & GREECE

Istanbul - Canakkale - Troy - Izmir - Pamukkale - Antalya - Konya - Cappadocia - Istanbul - Athens



2020 - 16 DAYS FROM

\$4999  
per person twin-share

Ancient Greece and Roman Byzantine collided in modern day Turkey, the two great empires leaving behind mesmerizing odes to the earliest Western Civilizations. On this fabulous tour through Turkey and Greece you will find engrossing history and majestic beaches, treasured ruins and breathtaking landscapes. From large cities to charming villages to fabulous island of the Aegean Sea, you will find the remnants of myths, beautiful scenery, and remarkable culture.

Image: Blue Mosque, Istanbul


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1



2



3

Images: 1. Konya, 2. Cotton Castle, 3. Athens, 4. Ephesus, 5. Mediterranean, 6. Antalya, 7. The library of Celsus, 8. Fairy Chimney, 9. Topkapi Palace, 10. Mykonos

Day 1: Depart for Turkey

Take an international flight from Australia to Istanbul. **Note:** Some flights may depart one day later, and may involve up to two transits.

Day 2: Arrive Turkey, Istanbul (B, D)

Upon arrival in Istanbul, your guide will be waiting to transport you to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 3: Istanbul (B, D)

Spend your day delving into Istanbul the only city that straddles two continents, where modern and ancient coexist. Tour includes a short briefing and the picture stop at the courtyard of the **Blue Mosque**, a 17th century Ottoman Mosque famous for its six minarets and magnificent interior made of blue tiles. Continue to the **Hippodrome**, an ancient Grecian stadium for horse racing and chariot racing during the Roman period. Then, gain insights into the Ottoman Empire's power during your guided tour of the **Topkapi Palace** and see the 4th century Egyptian obelisk. This afternoon, you may join the optional tour **Half Day Istanbul with St. Sophia** (\$70): *Visit Underground Cistern, water source of the Byzantine and Ottoman periods. Then visit St. Sophia, the great Byzantine Basilica built in the 6th century, which remained the largest cathedral in the world for almost a thousand years, it was later converted to a mosque and now serves as a museum.*

Day 4: Istanbul 🚗 Troy 🚗 Canakkale (B, D)

Today, drive to the town of **Gallipoli**, site of the famous Ottoman victory against the Allies during World War I. Visit the **Anzac Cemetery**, a memorial to the casualties of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, whose fame grew back home as word of their heroic efforts spread. We continue to Çanakkale where we dine at our hotel tonight.

Day 5: Canakkale 🚗 Troy 🚗 Pergamum 🚗 Izmir (B, D)

This morning, proceed to the classical city of **Troy**. Tour this 4000-year-old city and legendary center of the Trojan War, made immortal by Homer's epic poem **The Iliad**. See the symbolic replica of the famous **Wooden Horse** that the Greeks used to break their siege of this ancient city. Then, drive to Pergamum, a powerful kingdom during the ancient Hellenistic period, and visit **Asklepion**, the ancient Roman spa center. Continue to seaside Izmir, a city believed to be the birthplace of Homer, where we'll dine at our hotel.

📷 HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the continent-straddling metropolis of **Istanbul**, and step back in time to the Grand Bazaar, the majestic **Blue Mosque**, and in the taste of real **Turkish Delight**.
- Get up close and personal with the **fairy chimneys of Cappadocia** on a valley walk that'll have you exploring rock-cut dwellings in Love Valley or the rose-coloured hues of Red Valley
- Feast your eyes on Turkey's most spectacular sight, the **'Cotton Castle'** and paddle through the magical healing **hot springs at Pamukkale**.
- Explore thousands of years of history hidden within the remarkable ruins of **Ephesus**.
- Be lured by the sapphire waters of the **Mediterranean** and laze the days away in **Antalya**.
- Uncover thousands of years of civilisation in Athens with a visit to the world-famous **Acropolis**.
- *With its boutique culture, gorgeous beaches and thumping nightlife, the chic isle of **Mykonos** invites you to embrace your hedonistic side. (Island Hopping extension)*
- *The sight of a **Santorini sunset** can turn even the most hardened of souls into a romantic. Walk along the volcanic rim of the island, passing through picturesque white villages that cling to plunging cliffs. (Island Hopping extension)*

Day 6: Izmir 🚗 Pamukkale (B, D)

Today, travel to **Ephesus**, considered one of the greatest ancient cities of the world. Here, you'll meander through the ruins of the ancient Greek city of Ephesus, visit the **House of the Virgin Mary, Basilica of St. John, the library of Celsus, temple of Hadrian, the theater and the Odeon**. Then take a visit to the **Leather factory** where you can see the models wearing fashion popular leather walk show. Transfer to Pamukkale. After arrival, relax and enjoy the blissful thermal pools at your hotel before dinner.

Day 7: Pamukkale 🚗 Antalya (B, D)

Today, visit the Necropolis and the ancient city of **Hierapolis** ("Holy City"); a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Next, you will visit Pamukkale, known as "The Cotton Castle" is best described as a calcium cascade of snowy white stalactites reminiscent a frozen waterfall. It is recognized as the 8th wonder of the World by Turkish people. Our next stop the Mediterranean retreat of **Antalya** where we have some time at leisure to able through the winding lanes of its old city and admire beautifully preserved Ottoman architecture. Continue to Antalya. Founded by King Attalos of Pergamum as "Heaven on Earth," Antalya is an international resort city that has become a prime destination in Turkey.

Day 8: Antalya 🚗 Konya (B, D)

This morning, you may take a fascinating optional tour is offered to the **Pamphylian city of Perge and to the ancient city of Aspendos** (\$90): *Perge was founded in 13th century B.C. It is the most attractive and well preserved Pamphylian city. Continue to Aspendos, founded in 1000 B.C. by the colonists from Argos. Though it is well-known for its theater with a capacity of 30,000 people, the city also boasts a stadium and a fountain. All the ruins in the city have remained from the Roman period and the theater is still being used for contemporary concerts.* This afternoon, continue to Konya, where we will gain insights into the mystical Whirling Dervish sect whose remains lie in the **Mevlana Museum and Mausoleum**.

Day 9: Konya 🚗 Cappadocia (B, D)

Travel to Cappadocia. En route, visit the 13th-century Caravanserai of Sultanhan, a large abandoned city and shelter in Cappadocia, built on the Silk Road, whose main portal gate is considered a fine example of Turkish Seljuk art. Continue in Cappadocia. A region of surreal rock formations and incredible cultural heritage, Cappadocia is home to rock-cut temples, ancient underground cities, and unparalleled landscapes. Visit **"Fairy Chimney"**, its iconic volcanic cones. The thick clusters of rosy rock take on peculiar shapes-look for a dolphin, Napoleon's hat, or the Virgin Mary as you gaze upon them. You may also see the remarkable mushroom-shaped, chimney-like rock formations that monks used as shelters, and get the chance to climb inside one to visit the quarters within. Join the optional **performance of the world-famous Whirling Dervishes Dance** (\$70): *The "dance" of the Whirling Dervishes is called Sema. It is part of Turkish custom, history, beliefs and culture and represents a man's spiritual journey.*

Day 10: Cappadocia (B, D)

This morning, you may take an optional **hot air balloon ride** (\$380): *soaring over the magnificent Cappadocian landscape with its incredible fairy chimney rock formations.* The other-worldly landscapes of Cappadocia take centre stage today as we explore its volcanic landscape dotted with caves and troglodyte dwellings. Visit the **Open Air Museum in Goreme**. It's a monastic complex composed of churches, rectories and dwellings, and one of the earliest centres for religious education. Later, visit the **Ozkonak Underground City**, which has many strata made up of volcanic granite. Its larger areas are connected to each other by tunnels. Ozkonak had a built-in communication system of pipes on each of its levels, unlike Kaymakli and Derinkuyu, which have no such systems. Each carved out room had ventilation provided by holes when the city was closed against enemies. Next, visit the **village of Avanos**, and view the beautiful old houses, pottery and onyx.



2020 DEPARTURES

07 Mar 15 May# 03 Jul*# 09 Oct#
17 Apr# 05 Jun# 11 Sep# 04 Nov

*Peak season surcharge: \$1000

#Post-tour Island Hopping extension is available
Single supplement: \$990

DEPARTURE OPTIONS

• SYD/MEL/BNE/ADL/PER: Airfare included

+ INCLUSIONS

- Return economy class intl. airfares & taxes flying Etihad or a European Airline
- 12 nights 4-5 star (local rating) hotel accomm.
- 13 breakfasts (B) & 13 dinners (D)
- Internal flights (Cappadocia>Istanbul>Athens)
- Coach transportation & transfers
- Selected sightseeing & entrance fees
- English speaking tour guide(s)

⊗ EXCLUSIONS

- Compulsory prepaid tipping: \$250
- Visas (if applicable)
- Optional program
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

✈ AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Emirates/Qatar Airways/Singapore Airlines/Cathay Pacific fr \$500

🕒 EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Early Arrival/Stay Behind Fare Difference: fr \$250
- Hotel w/breakfast: \$270 twin-share

🏨 HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)

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|------------|-------------------|
| Istanbul | WOW Istanbul |
| Canakkale | Kolin Hotel |
| Izmir | Ramada Plaza |
| Pamukkale | Lycus River Hotel |
| Antalya | Holiday Inn Lara |
| Cappadocia | Crystal Kaymakli |
| Athens | Polis Grand |
| Mykonos | Grand Beach |
| Santorini | Afordite Venus |

🎈 OPTIONAL PROGRAMS (AUD)

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|--|-------|
| Half Day Istanbul with St. Sophia | \$75 |
| Half Day Tour to the ancient city of Perge and Aspendos | \$90 |
| Performance of the Whirling Dervishes Dance | \$70 |
| Hot air balloon ride | \$380 |
| Bosphorus cruise & Spiced Bazaar | \$60 |
| Full-day Saronic cruise tour with lunch | \$190 |

Day 11: Cappadocia ✈ Istanbul (B, D)

We started our visit with a demonstration of how silk cocoons are formed and saw how silk is reeled from the cocoons to make silk threads. Then fly back to Istanbul. Afternoon you may join the optional **Half day Tour to Bosphorus cruise & Spiced Bazaar** (\$60) and visit the Spice Market with its unforgettable aromas. Then continue to the Grand Bazaar, where you can shop for carpets, jewelry, leather and more. Then take the boat cruise along the Bosphorus, the winding straits separating Europe and Asia. The humble fishing villages and contrasting suspension bridges set against the dramatic outline of the Strait demonstrates the link between the East and West. **Note:** Baggage allowance for this sector is 1 piece max weight 20kg per person.

Day 12: Istanbul ✈ Athens (B, D)

Today fly to Athens. Upon arrival, meet in the arrival hall at Athens airport & transfer to the city hotel. Time at leisure until dinner at a local restaurant. **Note:** Baggage allowance for this sector is 1 piece max weight 20kg per person.

Day 13: Athens (B, D)

Proceed on full day tour of the Greek capital. See **Syntagma Square**, the **House of Parliament**, the **Memorial to the Unknown Soldier**, the **University and the National Library**. See **Hadrian's Arch** and the **Temple of Olympian Zeus**. Stop at the Pan Athenaic Stadium where

the first Olympic Games of the modern era were held in 1896. Visit the world famous site of the Acropolis to see the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: the **Propylaea**, the **Temple of Athena Nike**, the **Erechtheion** and finally **"the harmony between material and spirit"**, the **Parthenon**. Visit to the **Acropolis museum**. Inside, see the treasures, icons and statues taken from the site in the new home. Completing, free at own leisure. Discover Plaka, the old quarter, with its array of cafes and shops.

Day 14: Athens (B, D)

Today free at your leisure. Or join an optional **saronic cruise tour with lunch** (\$190): Includes transfer to the port and embark on the full day cruise to the 3 saronic islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra. At each island, get off the boat to discover each islands own individual character. *Aegina: The largest of the saronic islands, famous for pistachio nuts. Poros: a pretty island with chance for shopping. Hydra - an artist's delight, again with boutiques, shops and cafes dotted around the harbour. Return to the port of Athens, enjoy the on board entertainment program. Meet at the port and transfer to a restaurant for dinner.*

Day 15: Depart Athens (B)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight(s).

Day 16: Arrive Home



All prices are per person twin-share in AUD unless otherwise stated and subject to revision without notice. Itineraries, airlines, hotels & ships are subject to availability and change. Hotel locations can be within or outside itinerary cities and may not be centrally located. Double-bedded rooms are not guaranteed. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar quality and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure smooth operations. Passengers must remain with the group at all times. Fees may apply for deviations from the set itinerary. Total length of trip includes time spent in flight and is subject to flight schedule. Final itineraries and flight info may not be available until within 2 weeks before departure. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver13AUG2019



12

POST-TOUR EXTENSION Island Hopping 7 Nights

from \$1299; single supplement \$700; includes
 + 5 nights hotel accommodation (twin share)
 + Daily breakfast
 + Coach transportation & transfers
 + 3 Ferries (Athens>Mykonos>Santorini>Athens)
 + English speaking tour guide
 Excludes suggested tipping: \$105

Day 14: Athens Mykonos (B)

After breakfast transfer to the Athens port of Piraeus and take the boat to the island of Mykonos. Meet at Mykonos port and transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Mykonos Hotel.

Day 15: Mykonos (B)

Today free at your leisure and explore the most fabulous island of the Aegean Sea with the blue sky, the beautiful sugar houses and the amazing beaches. You may start with a walking tour in the morning and walk around the narrow white-washed streets of Mykonos Town. You will have many chances to take photographs, as in the morning the town is very quiet. You will see the lovely churches, the tiny shops, Little Venice, the traditional windmills and Peter the Pelican, the mascot of Mykonos. You may visit Paraportiani one of the 365 churches of the island and in the evening enjoy the famous night life of the island.

Day 16: Mykonos Santorini (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Mykonos port and take the speed boat to the island of Santorini. Meet at Santorini port and transfer to the hotel.

Day 17: Santorini (B)

Santorini is the supermodel of the Greek islands, a head-turner whose face is instantly recognisable around the world: multi coloured cliffs soar out of a sea-drowned caldera, topped by drifts of whitewashed buildings. With its reputation for dazzling panoramas, romantic sunsets and volcanic-sand beaches, it's hardly surprising the island features on so many travellers' bucket lists. At leisure on this amazing island of Santorini (formed by the eruption of the volcano 1600 BC). The sight is the most breathtaking of all Greek islands and perhaps of the world. Explore and enjoy all that the island has to offer. History and nature combine to make Santorini unforgettable.

Day 18: Santorini Athens (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Santorini port and take the boat to Athens. Meet at the Athens port of Piraeus and transfer to the hotel.

Day 19: Depart Athens (B)

After breakfast transfer back to airport to catch your flight home.

Day 20: Arrive Home

Image:
12. Santorini sunset

Half Day Tour to the ancient city of Perge and Aspendos (\$90)



Whirling Dervishes Dance (\$70)



Hot air balloon ride (\$380)



Half Day Istanbul with St. Sophia (\$75)



Bosphorus cruise & Spiced Bazaar (\$60)



Full-day Sarnic cruise tour with lunch (\$190)



YOUR TRAVEL AGENT