

A Turkish Delight

In the Footsteps of Ancient Empires



Stewart Tours
Small Groups Great Experiences

If the earth were a single state, Constantinople (Istanbul) would be its Capital

-Napoleon Bonaparte



CAPPADOCIA



ANTALYA



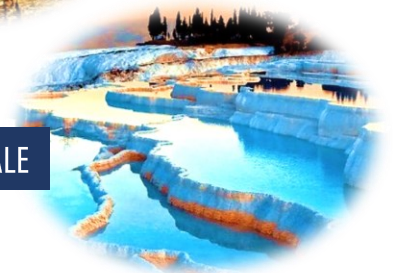
EPHESUS



KONYA



ISTANBUL



PAMUKKALE



Day By Day

Apr 06	Day 0	Depart USA
Apr 07	Day 1	Istanbul, Turkey
Apr 08	Day 2	Istanbul, Turkey
Apr 09	Day 3	Istanbul, Turkey
Apr 10	Day 4	Istanbul, Turkey
Apr 11	Day 5	Istanbul, Turkey
Apr 12	Day 6	Izmir / Kusadasi
Apr 13	Day 7	Ephesus
Apr 14	Day 8	Kusadasi
Apr 15	Day 9	Aphrodisias / Pamukkale
Apr 16	Day 10	Antalya
Apr 17	Day 11	Perge-Aspendos
Apr 18	Day 12	Antalya / Konya
Apr 19	Day 13	Konya / Cappadocia
Apr 20	Day 14	Cappadocia
Apr 21	Day 15	Cappadocia
Apr 22	Day 16	Depart for Istanbul / USA

Tour Highlights

- 16-Day Enchanting Tour of Turkey
- Stays in Six Different Cities / Regions
- Wonderful Expert National Guide Throughout Journey
- Almost All 2-Nights plus Stays in Beautiful Hotels
- Stay in Famous Cappadocia in a stunning Cave Hotel
- Market Visit & Cooking Fun!
- Music, Art, Dance Turkish Cultural Experiences
- Most Dining Included – 39 Meals Together!
- Visit Multiple UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Private Boat Cruise on World-Famous Bosphorus
- Amazing sites like Hagia Sophia, Byzantine Hippodrome Topkapi Palace, Stunning Ephesus, The Grand Bazaar, and jaw-dropping Balloons of Cappadocia.
Escorted by Mark & Vicki Stewart / Owners Stewart Tours



April 06 - Day 0: Depart USA



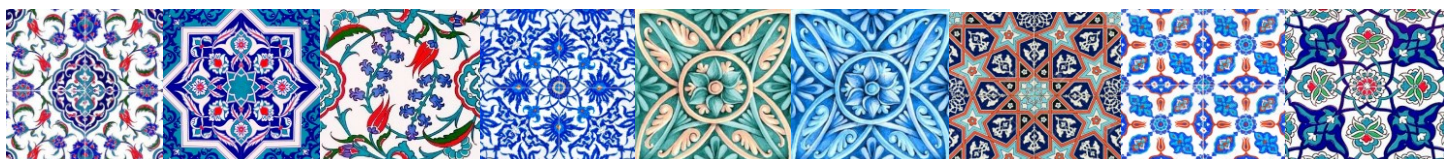
April 07 - Day 1: Istanbul

You arrive in the legendary city of Istanbul known throughout history as Constantinople. Founded in the 7th century BC by Greek settlers, this stunning city is the perfect place to start the tour across Turkey. If you are on the group flights, we meet you right at the airport for a relaxing arrival and transfer to our central 5-star hotel in Istanbul. After time to relax, we come together for dinner to enjoy meeting new friends and also seeing familiar faces. (D)



April 08 - Day 2: Istanbul

After a nice included breakfast, we are off to enjoy a full day in **one of the most famous and historic cities in the world, Istanbul**. With its strategic location on the Bosphorus peninsula between the Balkans, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, Istanbul has been associated with major political, religious and artistic events for more than 2,000 years. The historic core of **Istanbul is a UNESCO World Heritage Site** and that is where we start today. We visit the incredible **Topkapi Palace**. More than just a palace, it is an assemblage of museums containing collections amassed by the Sultans of the Ottoman Empire for almost five centuries. We see the **world-famous Blue Mosque** that is in every photo of Istanbul. We then walk out to **Divan Yolu**, the old "Road to the Imperial Council" now a busy thoroughfare, for lunch at a local restaurant. Our walk continues along the old cobbled streets to the **Spice Market**, where Genoese and Venetian goods were sold at a time when there was no Suez Canal, and all the spices from the East were brought here after being loaded on vessels in Egypt. We end this amazing first day with a visit to the **greatest Bazaar of them all, the Grand Bazaar**. The oldest and largest in the world, with the **core started in 1455**, it is often considered one of the first shopping malls in the world. The complex encompasses **61 covered streets and more than 4,000 stalls**. We have dinner together tonight after an exciting first day of exploration. (B,L,D)



April 09 – Day 3 – Istanbul

Our second day in Istanbul takes us to a number of **Byzantine Relics**. We first stroll to the great square that was once the **Byzantine Hippodrome**. Now it is a beautiful park-like area surrounded by the **Hagia Sophia**, and the Underground Cistern. The Hippodrome exhibits the Walled Column, The Serpent Column and the **Egyptian Obelisk** from the Byzantine times and the **German Fountain**. Next, we visit the **Hagia Sophia**. Completed in 537 AD, it's the **most important Byzantine building in the world**. After lunch, we take a short drive to **The Chora Church**, known for its **Late Byzantine mosaics and frescos**, and end with a visit to the ancient **Underground Cistern**, commonly called the Basilica Cistern. We enjoy dinner in Istanbul this evening. **(B,L,D)**

April 10 - Day 4 – Istanbul, Turkey

We start our day on the Bosphorus Strait with a visit to the **Dolmabahce Palace**. Overlooking the Bosphorus, its beauty is incomparable with **14 tons of pure gold** used for its interior decoration, its priceless paintings, furniture, and a rich collection of Bohemian crystal. Plus, we'll see its **famous Harem section**. We continue to the Kabatas Pier to experience an unforgettable **4-hour private boat tour** of the **Bosphorus Strait** with lunch. You will never forget the scenery and sailing between two continents. **(B,L)**

April 11 - Day 5 – Istanbul

Today we take a ferry trip to the Asian side of Istanbul to feel like a **real "Istanbullaer."** On the Asian side you will notice the difference in atmosphere between the Spice Market and the **Kadikoy**, which is more in tune with the way most people in Istanbul cook and eat. Indulge yourself in the huge variety of seasonal fruits and vegetables, with plenty to discover for the "foodie." **Experience the fishmongers, bakers, butchers and grocers singing out** to attract you to their stall including **Turkish delight and aromatic spice stands**. Lunch will be served at one of **Turkey's foremost restaurant, Çiya**. The chef is devoted to letting the world know about the glorious food of his homeland. The ingredients used in the dishes travel from **South Eastern Anatolia to arrive at your plate in Istanbul**: aromatic red pepper, pistachios, chickpeas, olive oil and pomegranate molasses. We will take the ferry back to the Asian side to have free time on **Istiklal Street** to enjoy a **Turkish-style Meyhanes (Cafe)** at Flower Passage. **(B,L)**



April 12 - Day 6 – Izmir / Kusadasi

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport and take a 1-hour flight to Izmir. On arrival we will journey to the **Village of Sirince** where Greeks lived until 1924. We enjoy lunch in a cozy restaurant where the local village ladies cook authentic dishes for us. After lunch, a chance to wander around the village and maybe find a treasure or two before we continue to Kusadasi, which puts us on the doorstep of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ephesus – probably the most important Greek city ruins in the Mediterranean and a true showstopper. We check into our beautiful hotel and enjoy dinner this evening as we prepare to explore Ephesus tomorrow. (B,L,D)



April 13 - Day 7 – Ephesus

We start early in the morning to beat the crowds and first drive to the **Virgin Mary's House**; pilgrims visit the house based on the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken to this stone house by Saint John and lived there for the remainder of her earthly life. We continue and visit Ephesus, which was founded in the eleventh century BC by the Ionians. Of Turkey's hundreds of ancient cities, Ephesus is the grandest and best preserved. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it's the best place in the Mediterranean to get a feel for what life was like in ancient times. Strolling through the streets of Ephesus, we see the Fountain of Traian, the **Temple of Hadrian** and the **Library of Celsus** to name a few. We'll visit the **Terrace Houses**, where the rich and the dignitary of Ephesus lived with the most beautiful ground mosaics, frescoes, terracotta pipe lines and private baths.



Later in the afternoon we will visit **St. John Basilica**, believed to be the **tomb of the Apostle John**, disciple of Jesus. From the Basilica, we will be able to look down on the remains of the temple of Artemis. We end the day with a visit to the Isa Bey Mosque, impressive works of architectural art remaining from the Anatolian cheiftains. **For dinner, we will head to the Fish market** and take the local items we purchase to a nearby restaurant and they will cook it for us, a wonderful experience for all. (B,L,D)



April 14 - Day 8 – Kusadasi

We have the morning at leisure. We will then journey to Kusadasi for lunch at an ecological farm that houses the best restaurant in the area. After having a feast, we will explore the farm to learn how they dry vegetables under the sun, how they make tomato & pepper paste, and the many different organic jams. After the farm tour we will visit the **Oleatrium**, the Olive Oil Museum where you will be traveling 2,500 years back in time and see how mankind first discovered that olives were edible and how olive oil was used from the beginning of time until today. Dinner at a favorite restaurant tonight. **(B,L,D)**



April 15 - Day 9 – Pamukkale

Today we visit **Aphrodisias**, a city founded in the 2nd century BC and dedicated to the cult of Aphrodite. The city was famous for its marble sculptors and its **Sanctuary of Aphrodite**. It was a center for the arts and was known for its school of sculpture. We visit the **Sculptor's Museum** and have a Turkish meal at a local restaurant. After lunch, we visit **Hierapolis**, the remains of the city are located on a plateau above Pamukkale, meaning “Cotton Castle” in Turkish. We then stroll over the **calcareous terraces of Pamukkale**, enjoying the thermal properties of this otherworldly site. Dinner this evening together in Pamukkale. **(B,L,D)**



April 16 - Day 10 – Antalya

We continue our journey headed back towards the southern coast known as Turkey's **Turquoise Coast**. Our destination is **Antalya**. **Founded in 200 BC**, it is now one of the most popular resort and coastal areas in Turkey. We'll visit the top-notch **Archeology Museum** with its amazing garden display and a sweeping overview of the cultures that have occupied Turkey over the previous millennia. **Enjoy free time right on this beautiful coast**, maybe a walk along the strand for dinner? **(B,L)**



April 17 - Day 11 – Perge & Aspendos

Perge was originally an ancient Lycian settlement that later became a **Greek city in Pamphylia**. It was the capital of the Roman province of Pamphylia Secunda. We'll stop by the **world's best preserved ancient Theater of Aspendos**, a true site to behold. After a relaxing lunch near the theater we return to the city of Antayla on the coast for an afternoon of relaxing. **Perhaps a visit to famous Lara Beach before dinner?** (B,L)



April 18 - Day 12 – Taurus Mtns / Konya

Departing after breakfast, we **start our scenic route over the Taurus Mountains enroute to Konya**. Along the way we'll stop by Beysehir to visit the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Esrefoglu Mosque**. Esrefoglu includes all the main elements of early Anatolian Turkish architecture. After lunch at a local restaurant, we arrive in **Konya** in the late afternoon and visit the world-famous **Mevlana Museum**. Formerly a lodge for whirling dervishes, it now houses the tomb of the Mevlana Celeleddin Rumi, a **13th-century Sufi Mystic, Scholar and Poet**. Dinner and overnight in Konya tonight. (B,L,D)



April 19 - Day 13 – Cappadocia

We have a short drive to spectacular Cappadocia today, with an enroute visit to **Sultanhan Caravanserai**, where the medieval **merchants used to stay overnight along the Uzun Yolu (long road)**. This structure, **built in 1229, is the largest Caravanserai in Turkey**. In Cappadocia we'll focus on the very particular culture and foods of Anatolia. For lunch **we'll visit a village home** with locals showing us how to make stuffed vine leaves and manti, a traditional dish whose heritage stretches back in to the Central Asian origins of Turkey.

Next, we'll discover the **lunar landscape of Cappadocia** in the **Dervant Valley**, including a visit to **Zelve Open Air Museum**, which is one of the earliest inhabited and latest abandoned monastic settlements of Cappadocia. We'll see the iconic fairy chimneys at **Pasabag Fairy Chimneys Valley** including a stop at Avanos, a center of terracotta art since 2,000 BC. We will try our hand at pottery under the supervision of a master potter, a fun connection to this region. **Turkey's famous Whirling Dervishes** come from this region, and we will witness an authentic display of these iconic performers in a historic Caravanserai. (B,L,D)

Tonight, you are staying in one of the famous Cave hotels of Cappadocia!



April 20 - Day 14 – Cappadocia

Our first real encounter with Cappadocia's almost Martian-like landscape is experienced today at the **Goreme Open Air Museum** to see the best examples of Byzantine art in Cappadocia. This historic walk in Goreme National Park, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, is through caves and passages with paintings and frescos dating from as early as the 10th century. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will then explore an underground city, one of the largest and deepest of Cappadocia. We can't leave Turkey without learning about Turkish carpet-making techniques, enjoying a wine with the local demonstration. We have dinner tonight in a cave restaurant with Turkish folk dances and exotic belly dancing! **(B,L,D)**



April 21 - Day 15 – Cappadocia

Today is a day at leisure in the fairytale land of Cappadocia. Relax and enjoy the views from our amazing Cave hotel or participate in some independent booked activities like a Hot Air Balloon Ride or famous Turkish Bath experience. Our local guide will assist with any self-booked activities you choose. We will surely witness the amazing site of dozens of hot air balloons above the valley. Farewell dinner this evening at a beautiful home-run restaurant to toast good friends and this stunning tour across Turkey. **(B,D)**

(April 22 – Day 16: Return Home to USA) (B)



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