Upon arrival to Istanbul, greeting outside the customs area and transfer to the hotel

After a short time to refresh departure from the hotel for Half Day Cruise

Embark the “public ferry” from Sirkeci and take a relaxing cruise up Istanbul's winding straits (with regular ferry) for a chance to relax and admire the shoreline of beautiful mosques, lavish palaces and decadent villas - you'll see Dolmabahce and Beylerbeyi Palaces, Ottoman summer mansions and Ortakoy mosque, the defensive Rumeli Fortress and Bosphorus Bridge - one of the world's largest suspension bridges, all alongside passing fishing boats and yachts.

The Bosphorus also known as the Istanbul straight is not only beautiful, but also one of the most strategically placed necks of the water on earth. It forms the boundary between the European part (Rumeli) of Turkey and its Asian part Anatolia. The world's narrowest strait used for international navigation, it connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara (which is connected by the Dardanelles to the Aegean Sea, and thereby to the Mediterranean Sea).

Approx. Return back to the hotel and time at leisure

** Depending on how you feel you can enjoy some time strolling around Bebek and Ortakoy, have a coffee stop, explore the small boutiques

EVENING: At leisure
Begin your exploration of the city with a walk up into Sultanahmet Square again to see the site of the famous Hippodrome, begun in 203 AD and continually enlarged until it could seat 100,000. Little remains of its past splendor but you will see the Obelisk of Theodosius, which has some superb 4th century carvings on it.

We also visit the Sultan Ahmet Camii (Blue Mosque). Built in the early 17th century, it is famous for its great dome, six minarets and an interior covered in blue Iznik tiles.

Then continue Istanbul's most famous sight - the Aya Sofya. Built by the Emperor Justinian in the mid-5th century AD, this vast building with its huge dome still dominates the city. After the Turks conquered Constantinople (and renamed it Istanbul) in 1453 it became a mosque and remained so until Kemal Ataturk turned it into a museum in 1933 and restored its superb mosaics. It is one of the great architectural wonders of the world. (closed on Mondays)

Before the lunch break our last a visit is to the legendary Topkapi Sarayi (including Harem). Begun by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1453, it was the palace of the Ottoman Sultans for over 300 years and is a supreme example of Ottoman architecture. Here we will wander through its many pavilions, courtyards and gardens, including the famous Harem, and see unrivalled treasures from the collections of the Ottoman Sultans including dazzling jewelry and unique porcelain. (closed on Tuesdays)

Lunch at Konyali restaurant located on the grounds of the Topkapi Palace and has the stunning view of the Marmara Sea & The Bosphorus

THE GRAND COVERED BAZAAR (KAPALI CARSI)
Constantinople became a centre for trade during the Byzantine era when one could find such treasures as silk from Persia and gems and spices from India. But it wasn't until the Ottoman conquest that the city became a final depot for most caravans loaded with goods from the far East and West. Trading with gold and Sultan’s habit of moving large amounts of it into the treasury, made the value of the precious metal higher in the Ottoman Empire than the rest of the world. As a result, the bazaar also became a thriving center for currency arbitrage. By the 17th century, the Grand Covered Bazaar held more than 3,000 shops supplied by 30 major warehouses or hans. Today, the rebuilt bazaar reflects the economic advancement of Turkey. It's a major tourist attraction but it also remains a place where the average family in Istanbul buys everything from hardware to clothing (Open everyday except Sundays)

EVENING: At lesiure
First stop on our tour program will be the impressive 5th century Theodosian Walls and the nearby Kariye Museum. Once the Church of St. Saviour in Chora and dating back to the reign of Constantine the Great in the 4th century, much of the structure you see today largely dates from the 11th century. Once a mosque, it is now a museum famous for its superb mosaics depicting scenes from the life of Christ, which mainly date from the 1320’s. These are some of the most beautiful Byzantine mosaics in the world and were the model for those in Torcello. (closed on Wednesdays)

**Rustem Pasa Mosque** - Built in 1561, in the busy, cluttered market area a little beyond the Spice Bazaar. Sinan brilliantly adapted the mosque’s design to the oddly shaped site in a crowded, commercial district. This is the mosque with a central dome and a single minaret that arises amidst the rows of shops and storehouses near the Spice Bazaar. It creates a beautiful sight in the busiest commercial center in the city, together with the Stileymaniye Mosque on the slope behind. The architect Sinan built the mosque in 1561 for the Grand Vizier Riistem Pasa. Spiraling staircases go up to the structure that is set above a row of shops. The interesting courtyard is actually a small terrace covered by five small domes.

Continue with **Spice Market**; Built in the 17th century next to the Golden Horn, the Spice Bazaar is the second largest covered bazaar in Istanbul. Originally housing shops selling medicine and spices, the Spice Bazaar continues to fulfill its original function. This distinguished example of Ottoman architecture continues to sparkle with life even today. (closed on Sundays)

Lunch at a local restaurant
Afternoon visits shall be around the hotel

Nearby is the impressive **Yerebatan Sarayi (Underground Cistern)**, which was built by the Emperor Justinian’s engineers to supply the Imperial Palace with fresh water. This vast underground chamber, supported by rank upon rank of columns, many of which were salvaged from pagan temples, has been superbly restored.

Return back to the hotel and time to freshen up for the evening program
DAY 4

Istanbul

Day at leisure – our suggestion for the day is as follows;

Drive to the downtown of the city - Pera;

Istiklal Street; an elegant pedestrian area, approximately three kilometers long, which houses exquisite boutiques, music stores, bookstores, art galleries, cinemas, theaters, libraries, cafés, pubs, night clubs with live music, historical patisseries, chocolateries and restaurants. The avenue, surrounded by the unique nineteenth century Turkish architecture.

During the Ottoman period, the avenue was called Cadde-i Kebir (Grand Avenue) and was a popular spot for Ottoman intellectuals, also becoming a center for European foreigners and the local Italian and French Levantines who referred to it as Grande Rue de Péra. When 19th century travelers referred to Istanbul as the Paris of the East, they were mentioning the Grande Rue de Péra (İstiklal Caddesi) and its half-European, half-Asian culture.

Lunch at “Kivahan” located next to Galata Tower and offers a variety of Turkish cuisine from different areas of Anatolia (self payment)

Visit The Galata Tower; built in1384 - it was the highpoint in the city walls of the Genoese colony called Galata.

Stop at the Pera Palace Hotel, which was built for the Orient Express in 1892 and has acted an important role in the city's cultural as a landmark, hosted many important personalities including Atatürk, Agatha Christie, Churchill and many more...

The hotel has been renovated and reopening on the 01st of September 2010

http://www.perapalace.com/en-EN/history/64.aspx

If Antiques and high – end designs are your thing then zip through the narrow streets of Cukurcuma, which has long be known for its antiques, but over the last few years, wares that appeal to distinctively hipster sensibilities have joined the Ottoman relics and old imperial plunder. Simultaneously, high-end design and fashion boutiques have started to pop up. Hot on the footsteps of the discerning shop owners and shoppers, are the discerning watering holes, with Algeria Street swiftly becoming one of the city's most vibrant nightspots.

Cukurcuma ratchets up the variables - this is a district of east and west, old and new, trendy and bygone ... often all within the same shop
**EVENING: Whirling Dervish Ceremony @ Hocapasa Cultural Center**

This new center is recently converted from a 550 years old historical Turkish Bath called Hoca Paşa Bath, also known as Hoca Sinan Paşa bath. It was built by Hoca Sinan Paşa who was a teacher and later vizier to Fatih Sultan Mehmet during 1470's. It was a double bath for both men and women. It is comparatively a big math with high dome, made of cut stone and also corner walls are designed like a peacock tail. This building served as a Turkish bath till 1988.

- Please note that the performance takes place every evening except Tuesday and Thursday @ 7:30pm

**DAY 5**

**Istanbul / Cappadocia**

*This morning we will start the day early and drive to the Istanbul Ataturk Airport to take flight to Kayseri*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07:30</td>
<td>Departure from the hotel and drive to Istanbul Ataturk Airport</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Take off to Cappadocia with TK 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>Arrival to Cappadocia and drive to the central part of Capadocia to start our program</td>
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Today we will start our Cappadocia cuisine experience at the **Bizim Ev** (our guest house) Restaurant. This beautifully restored Restaurant has been divided into four sections to generate different atmosphere and different taste for all your needs. All those sections are named by clearly indicating their own structures within the Restaurant. Which are: "Cave Entrance", "Cave Wine Cellar", "Stone Arch"
Room" and the "Closed Terrace". Each section of the Restaurant is designed to stand-alone from others. They all have their own seating plan, including traditional seating by using lowered tables and hand-made cushions as well as today's modern tables and chairs.

Continue to the village of Avanos at the banks of the Red River “Kizilirmak”, the center of handmade pottery made from clay obtained from the river next to the village. The potters of Avanos, who have practiced their craft for more than 4,000 years.

Drive to see the rock-carved churches Göreme National Park, like an open-air museum. Here, clustered within a relatively small compass, are numerous monasteries and some of the most fascinating churches of the region, deemed worthy of inclusion and protection in a natural museum. Within its precincts are 15 churches large and small, seven refectories, and various tombs and cellars including wine cellars. Special visit to the Karanlik, Elmali and Tokali churches. The last named is the finest of all, containing frescoes painted in a sophisticated, classic style. We now move on to the 10th century Church of Cavusin, which contains an unusual group portrait of the Byzantine Emperor Nikephoros Phokas and his family.

Return to the Hotel. (B& L)

**DAY 6  Cappadocia**

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<tr>
<th>OPTIONAL BALLONING TOUR</th>
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<td>This morning you may choose an Optional hot air balloon excursion over Cappadocia. Early wake – up (about 05:00 am). Depending on the weather conditions, in the early morning before sunrise guests will be transferred to the meeting point for the tour with Hot-air balloons. Estimated flying time is 1 hour, after the tour champagne is served at the landing site and diplomas will be given to all ballooners. Back to the Hotel to refresh and breakfast.</td>
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Around 10:00 after you freshen up, start the program with the Underground City of Derinkuyu, where early Christians used to hide during difficult times of persecution,

Continue to Mustafa Pasa (SINASSOS), was inhabited by Greek Orthodox families until the beginning of the 20th century. Walk in the village of the houses dating back to the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries display fine examples of stonework.

Lunch will be served at the Cultural Museum Restaurant located in Ortahisar. Beside delicious regional food restaurant houses an ethnography museum you can visit before having your lunch.
Explore the cute town where you can come across with antique handicrafts with some hidden antique places

Visit a local Cappadocian Family cave home and explore the local life there... Turkish Tea or local soft drink will be offered with vegetable (Gozleme) to the guests.

Today we ends our program with a gentle hike through orchards, unusual volcanic rock formations and rock-cut houses at Red & Rose Valley. During sun-set, a real Cappadocian Wine & Special Cappadoci a n Chee se will be offered .

EVENING: If you feel like going out for dinner then we would suggest you to try the specialities at the A la Turca Restaurant located in Goreme

DAY 7

Izmir - Ephesus 50 miles, 1 hr (one way)

Ephesus (Celsus Library)  House of Virgin Mary  Artemis

Suggested Flights

Please note that Sun Express has direct Kayseri – Izmir flights on 4th and 7th days of the week in the morning. Fight time for 2011 summer period has not yet been announced and will be sent seperately around April 2011

Magnificent, inspiring, gorgeous, amazing, extra-ordinary...

These are only a few words that may describe Ephesus. However no one could adequately describe Ephesus with words; one has to see Ephesus to appreciate it. A

Ephesus - Nestled close to the Aegean coast in South western Turkey, Ephesus is recognized as one of the best preserved Roman cities in the world. Its unforgettable landmarks include the Celsus Library, the Temple of Hadrian and the Great Theatre. The theatre had seating for 24,000, which was the site where it is believed St. Paul preached to the Ephesians, and is used today for a local spring festival.

House of Virgin Mary - Ephesus is also of great significance to the Christian world, being the site of the modest stone house where the Virgin Mary spent her final years.
The Temple of Artemis - One of the Seven Wonders of the World. The great temple was built by Croesus, king of Lydia, in about 550 BC and was rebuilt after being burned by a madman named Herostratus in 356 BC. The Artemesium was famous not only for its great size (over 350 by 180 feet [about 110 by 55 m]) but also for the magnificent works of art that adorned it. Today, only a solitary column remains of this once-glorious structure.

Late afternoon if time permits visit Sirince. The village of Sirince referred in ancient sources as the Ephesus on the Mountain suggests long established settlement. Although there seems to be no concrete indication of how it came onto the stage of history, the dominant theory is that a small group of people resettled on the mountain, following the fall of the city of Ephesus and its harbour being moved to Kusadasi (Scala Nova). The people might have preferred to move and settle in the mountains due to problems caused by the silting and the flooding of the river Meander.

Return to Izmir and overnight

**DAY 8**

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<tr>
<td>Izmir - Bodrum</td>
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And yet it's time to relax and enjoy the rhythm of Bodrum. Whether you want to meet up with friends and party till the first lights of the day, go for sailing, indulge for a gourmet experience or just simply relax and enjoy a laid back time .......you will find a variety of options to meet your expectations

**DAY 9 – 11**

At leisure
Optional activities can be organised

**DAY 12**

Take the suitable flight to Istanbul to catch the homebound connection Turkish Airlines has 9 flights per day between Bodrum – Istanbul during the summer period.

- SEE YOU IN TURKEY -