

AN IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS' CULINARY TOUR OF TURKEY



Duration: 7 nights / 8 days

Tour itinerary:

Istanbul / Canakkale / Kusadasi

DAY 01

Arrival in Istanbul

Arrive at Ataturk International Airport. Meet your guide and transfer to the Sultanahmet Palace Hotel. A unique and comfortable hotel set on spacious sea viewed spot just one minute walk from world famous Blue Mosque. Upon arrival check-in, welcome briefing and orientation tour of the hotel area with your guide. In the evening proceed to welcome dinner to a near-by Seasons Restaurant, located within Four Seasons Hotel.



Gourmet Details:

Tonight's dinner will be at the Four Seasons Hotel's "Seasons" restaurant which features a glass-enclosed courtyard and an outdoor terrace. The elegant and refined décor combines Turkish artwork with a more contemporary style. This restaurant also has a beautifully landscaped garden that creates a peaceful oasis in the middle of Istanbul. After dinner there will be an informal lecture on Turkish cuisine.

Overnight: at Sultanahmet Palace Hotel in Istanbul

Included meals: D

DAY 02

Istanbul

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for full-day sightseeing tour of the old city. The tour includes all significant landmarks of the city: the ancient **Hippodrome**, **Blue Mosque**, **Topkapi Palace Complex**, and the **Grand Bazaar**. In the late afternoon we will return to the hotel and have an evening at leisure.



Gourmet Details:

Today's lunch will be at Konyali restaurant, located within the Topkapi Palace complex. This restaurant, which is run by the fourth generation of the same family, specializes in Ottoman Imperial cuisine. A total of 700 different dishes from soups to desert are created through out the year by 250 chefs in the kitchens of Konyali.

Here we will taste a cold appetizer specialty of the day (prepared in olive oil); traditional Turkish pastry with cottage cheese; kebab with smoked egg-plant puree and assortment of Turkish desserts.

Overnight: at Sultanahmet Palace Hotel in Istanbul

Included meals: B, L

DAY 03

Istanbul

In the morning – depart for a full day educational trip to **Doluca Winery** – the biggest wine producer in Turkey. During this visit we will have chance to learn about all aspects of wine production in Turkey. Lunch en route is included to the program. We will return to the hotel in the late afternoon. This evening we will visit Taksim Square (the modern city center) for a short walking tour of the square and the pedestrian area of Istiklal Street. Dinner will include a tasting safari at **Flower Passage** (Cicek Pasaji).

Note: Trip to Doluca Winery is available only during the months of August and September. On other dates the trip will be replaced with the tour of Spice Market and Turkish cuisine cooking lesson.



Gourmet Details:

This evening we will have a rather unusual dinner – we will get acquainted with the tastes of Istanbul's dynamic city center at the Flower Passage. The Flower Passage has this name as it was once one of the great flower markets of Istanbul (remember, the Turks invented tulips). The Flower Passage itself is a small L-shaped galleria, four stories high with a glass roof. One end of the L opens onto Istiklal Street, the other on a long covered alley which is one of the great delights of Istanbul.

It is both a market and a dining area: we will choose among numerous varieties of authentic fast food – midye tava (fried mussels on a stick), kumpir (oven-baked potatoes with different fillings), mercimek kofte (mashed red lentil balls wrapped in a lettuce leaf), and many other types of Turkish appetizers - meze. Adjacent to the Flower Passage there is a glorious fruit and vegetable market which is open till midnight, and within the Passage there are about 60 restaurants packed to overflowing, with gypsy bands strolling through most of the restaurants in a raucous cacophony.

Overnight: at Sultanahmet Palace Hotel in Istanbul

Included meals: B, L, D

DAY 04

Çanakkale

After breakfast at the hotel, we will leave Istanbul and drive through ancient Thrace then further along the **Dardanelles Strait**. Before we cross the strait by ferry, we will lunch at a sea-food restaurant. We then continue to the famous site of **ancient Troy**. After visiting Troy, we will proceed to Tusan Hotel, located within 10 min drive from the site. Today's dinner is at the hotel.



Gourmet Details:

Turkey is the country of four seas; its shores are washed by the Black, Marmara, Aegean and Mediterranean Seas. Naturally, sea-food has an important place in Turkish cuisine. For today's lunch we will taste grilled fish of the season, combined with a fresh herb salad. Lunch also includes a cup of Turkish vegetable soup and dessert. From our perfectly located restaurant we will also enjoy a beautiful view over the Dardanelles Strait.

Overnight: at Tusan Hotel in Çanakkale

Included meals: B, L, D

DAY 05

Kusadasi

This morning we will leave Canakkale and after a 2 hour drive reach Adatepe village. Here we will visit the **museum of olive oil** – first of its kind in Turkey. Then we will continue to a near-by **olive processing factory** and meet its owners, who will show us how olives are processed and olive oil produced. After factory visit we will drive to Bergama. As we arrive, we will stop for a lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch we will tour the ancient site of **Pergamum** then continue to Kusadasi. We will reach Kusadasi in the early evening and proceed to our hotel. Dinner will be at the hotel tonight.



Gourmet Details:

Today's lunch will be at a private room of Saglam restaurant in Bergama. The room is decorated with traditional craft items and has the style of a traditional Turkish house. Here we will taste various stews (meat and vegetables) from the open-buffet of the restaurant.

Overnight: at Kismet Hotel in Kusadasi
Included meals: B, L, D

DAY 06

Kusadasi

This morning we will depart for a full day Ephesus tour. We will visit the ancient site of **Ephesus**, the **House of the Virgin Mary** and The **Ephesus Archeology museum** in Selcuk. We will also visit **Sirince village** and have home-hosted lunch. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight. .



Gourmet Details:

After the tour of Ephesus, we will drive to Sirince village for lunch. The village is a perfect synthesis of Turkish and Greek culture as of the 1920s. After the Independence War, there was a “people exchange” between the Greeks and Turks and many typical Greek houses, though they kept their original outside characteristics, have been remodeled to local preferences on the inside. In one of those houses we will have a home-hosted lunch.

We will savor home-made stuffed pancakes – gözleme, stew prepared in oven – güveç, and freshly baked bread. After lunch we will have some time to stroll through the village and socialize with locals. All the narrow streets of the village belong to the women, selling handcrafts of all kinds and olive oil. Another attraction of Sirince is its home-made wine.

Overnight: at Kismet Hotel in Kusadasi
Included meals: B, L, D

DAY 07

Kusadasi

Today is at leisure to enjoy lovely Kusadasi on your own. In the evening we'll enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: at Kismet Hotel in Kusadasi
Included meals: B, L, D



DAY 08

Return home



Transfer to Adnan Menderes International airport in Izmir for your homebound flight via Istanbul.

Included meals: B

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