

## Full Itinerary & Trip Details

# 12 Day Greece - Bulgaria - Turkey Combined Tour

If you are looking for something special and extraordinary then look no further. Starting from Greece to Bulgaria, we will finish that great holiday with the best tour in Turkey, including Istanbul, Kusadasi, Ephesus & Cappadocia. This an exquisite tour for you with all the bells and whistles.



**PRICE STARTING FROM**

€ 979 € 979

**DURATION**

12 days

**TOUR ID**

486

## ITINERARY

**Day 1 : Greece - Athens - Arrival Day**

Arrive at Athens International Airport and meet our professional driver who will transfer you to your hotel. It is your free day to explore and enjoy Athens on your own. You can join some of the optional excursions. Overnight at the hotel.

## **Day 2 : Greece - Athens Sightseeing Tour with Acropolis & Half Day All in One**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, we will start the tour of the city of Athens, visiting Syntagma Square - the centre of modern Athens and view the changing of the guard in front of the Parliament building. On the way to Acropolis, we will have a stop to the Panathenaic Stadium-made of white marble- where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896. The impressive, work of Art, Stadium was the finish line of the Marathon Race of Athens 2004 Olympics. We will also see the Temple of Olympian Zeus - the largest Temple ever built in Greece. We will view the National Gardens, the Academy, the National Library, the University, and finally we will visit the most magnificent monument in the world - the Parthenon on the Acropolis. Then drive to Piraeus, Greece's main port and continue by the coastal road to Kastella, a picturesque hill area overlooking the Mikrolimano yacht harbour, having the opportunity to see numerous restaurants and cafes by the sea. On the way to Mesoghia and the Winery, enjoy the journey through the southern suburbs of the city, along the coastal avenue of Athens riviera with its magnificent view to the sea.

Arrive at the Winery\* and enjoy the visit. Drive to Porto Rafti Area by the sea for a lunch. After the lunch, drive to McArthur Designer Outlet shopping village. In continue, we drive at a Pottery workshop to see the craft of making vases and the exhibition of different products. Afterwards, drive back to hotel, passing by the facilities of the Olympic Athletic Centre of Athens, where the majority of the athletic events were held during the 2004 Olympic Games. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

## **Day 3 : Greece - Athens - Vergina - Thessaloniki**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning, drive to Vergina, a small town in northern Greece near Veria, principal of the prefecture of Imathia. Visit the museum which was built to protect the tombs, and was inaugurated in 1993, to exhibit the artefacts and show the tumulus as it was before the excavations. Departure for Thessaloniki for overnight at the hotel.

## **Day 4 : Greece - Thessaloniki Panoramic Tour & Departure to Bulgaria**

Breakfast Included

Breakfast at the hotel. Thessaloniki Panoramic tour the city of great historic importance and a crossed of so many civilizations and cultures. Begin the tour with a panoramic drive around the White Tower, the main landmarks of the city, the Galerius Arch, the Rotunda monument, the Old Town (Ano Poli) and the City Walks, from where you will have a marvelous view of Thessaloniki. Your Escort will provide you with all the information about Thessaloniki's history old and new as you look at these stately buildings. During the tour. There will be a short stop at Agios Demetrius Byzantine church which is the most important church of Thessaloniki for religious, historical and artistic reasons. The most famous and interesting part of the church, is underground ancient "Crypt". After the tour, boarding on coach in Thessaloniki around noon. Departure for Bulgaria. Visit of Melnik – the smallest town in Bulgaria famous for its excellent wines and sandstone rocky pyramids. Overnight in Sandanski or Melnik.

## **Day 5 : Bulgaria - Sandanski - Rila Monastery - Sofia**

Breakfast Included

Departure for Rila Monastery - the most exquisite example of the monastery art and architecture in Bulgaria. Guided tour of the monastery complex. Visit to Nativity of the Virgin Church with its miracle icon of the Virgin and splendid gilded iconostasis, the old kitchen, the monastery museum where you can learn about the long and heroic history of the monastery, the wood carved cross made for a period of twelve years by a monk called Rafael, Hrelyo's Tower and many spectacular views from the mountain and the surrounding nature. Drive to Sofia in the afternoon. Upon request – dinner at a traditional restaurant with folklore music and dances. Overnight in Sofia.

## **Day 6 : Bulgaria - Sofia - Plovdiv**

Breakfast Included

Guided sightseeing tour of the city center including visit to Alexander Nevski Cathedral - one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in Europe, as well as one of Sofia's symbols and a primary tourist attraction; St. George Rotunda, St. Sophia Church, built by the Roman Emperor Justinian in the 6th century, National Theatre, former Royal Palace, today housing the National Revival Art Gallery and the Ethnographic Museum, Presidency, etc. Around noon departure for Plovdiv. In the afternoon sightseeing tour in the Old Town, including a visit to the Roman Ancient Theatre, which was built in the 2nd century AD under the rule of the Roman Emperor Trajan and is nowadays considered to be the largest surviving Roman construction in Bulgaria, visit to the Ethnographic Museum, Roman Stadium, St. Constantine and Helena Church, etc. Overnight in Plovdiv.

## **Day 7 : Bulgaria - Plovdiv - Bulgarian -Turkish Border**

Breakfast Included

Morning transfer for the Bulgarian-Turkish border. Upon arrival to border, we will head to Istanbul. Transfer to your hotel in Istanbul and overnight in Istanbul.

## **Day 8 : Turkey - Istanbul City Tour**

Breakfast Included

We pick you up at 08.30 from your hotel for the daily tour of old Istanbul City, upon breakfast. Visit to ST. SOPHIA This ancient basilica, built by Constantine the Great in the 4th century and reconstructed by Justinian in the 6th century, is one of the architectural marvels of all time.

TOPKAPI PALACE The great palace of the Ottoman sultans from the 15th to the 19th centuries housing an exquisite collection of crystal, silver, and Chinese porcelain, robes worn by the sultans and their families, the famous jewels of the Imperial Treasury, miniatures, the Holy Mantle; enshrining relics of the Prophet Mohammed.

SULTANAHMET IMPERIAL MOSQUE Across from St. Sophia built in the 16th century by the architect Mehmet, is known as the BLUE MOSQUE because of its magnificent interior decoration of blue Iznik tiles.

HIPPODROME Ancient Hippodrome, the scene of chariot races, with the three monuments; the Obelisk of Theodosius, the bronze Serpentine Column and the Column of Constantine.

We will then take you to the Grand Spice Bazaar which is a unique atmosphere with reasonable prices for your shopping on many Exotic Spices and Herbs, Turkish Baklava, Turkish Delights, Turkish Coffee, nuts and fruits, small souvenirs such as Ceramic Handicrafts, Evil Eyes totems, all naturel olive oil, soaps and many other goods in Souvenir Shops and stores. After the tour, depart for Istanbul Airport for domestic flight to Izmir. Transfer from airport and check in to your hotel in Kusadasi. Overnight in Kusadasi.

Please Note: Hagia Sophia is closed on Mondays, Topkapi Palace closed on Tuesdays. If your tour is on one of these days, we would offer you to visit Underground Cistern instead of Hagia Sophia and Topkapi palace museum.

### **Day 9 : Turkey - Kusadasi - Ephesus Tour - Turkish Village Sirince**

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Included

After breakfast at 08.30, we depart from hotel for fully guided tour of Ephesus, one of the best preserved ancient sites in the world en-route, visiting the Temple of Artemis, Curetes street, famous Roman baths, Celsus Library, Grand theatre and House of the Virgin Mary. Lunch break around 13.00. After the lunch, we will visit a place which continues to perform one of the oldest arts of Turkey; a carpet weaving center. After lunch, we will have a Turkish Village Tour. Sirince's construction style today belongs to Anatolian Greeks. The houses on the slope are all original with their white paints. Sirince Village also has a fantastic reputation for making some of the best wines in Turkey - especially fruit wines. We will visit the vineyards and it is time to learn how to make fruit wine with Turkish wine makers.

In the evening, you will be tested about your knowledge of making fruit wine. On the way, we will visit one of the famous leather production centers of the region, where you will have the opportunity to get a good factory rate. On this guided tour, you will avoid the constant nagging and sometimes bullying that is well known in the markets of Turkey. Enabling you to enjoy the shopping experience whilst gaining the knowledge of the ancient craftsmen. Overnight in Kusadasi.

### **Day 10 : Turkey - Kusadasi to Izmir / Kayseri airport and Cappadocia**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, we depart for Denizli airport for our domestic flight to Cappadocia. Transfer from Kayseri airport to your Cave hotel. The rest of the day is yours to explore Cappadocia. Overnight in Cave Hotel in Cappadocia.

### **Day 11 : Turkey - Cappadocia Tour**

Breakfast Included

Today, after breakfast, we will get to know the Cappadocia region, a volcanic area in which the geological formation started 10 million years ago. As a result of these formations phallic like pillars have come to life. The beautiful horse country Katpatuka, (as the Persians called her) is an unbelievable strip of land, enchanting and mysterious. Cappadocia region is also famous for its arts, including ceramic and carpets. You will be picked up approximately 09.30 from your hotel to join our regular tour. Tour starts with Uchisar Castle, the highest point of Cappadocia. After Uchisar, you visit Goreme Open Air Museum, the Heart of Cappadocia. Goreme Open Air Museum is famous for frescoes dating to 10th century describing the life of Jesus Christ and monks. Next stop is Cavusin which is an abandoned village with old cave Greek houses. After Cavusin, you go to the restaurant in Avanos to

have lunch. After lunch, you visit a pottery work shop, to see how to make potteries. Then, you go Pasabagi where you can see three - headed fairy chimneys. After Pasabagi, you visit another workshop to see Cappadocian handwoven carpets and kilims. Next stop is Devrent Valley which is also called Imagination Valley where you can see natural rock formations looking like animals. Then, you head to a wine shop in Urgup for wine tasting. Last stop is Three Beauties, three beautiful fairy chimneys with their hats which are the symbol of Cappadocia. This tour will end approximately 18.00 and you will be returned back to your hotel. Overnight in Cappadocia.

## **Day 12 : Turkey - Cappadocia to Istanbul - End of Tour**

Breakfast Included

After breakfast, you will have free time shopping in Cappadocia. Today, we depart for Kayseri airport for our domestic flight to Istanbul and then back to home. We hope your tour was a memorable one and we would like to see you in the future in one of our tours again. Have a nice trip back home and thanks for choosing us.

## **Includes**

- 2 nights hotel in Cappadocia
- Guided Istanbul city tour
- Professional English - speaking tour guides
- All entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary
- Transportation in a fully air - conditioned, non - smoking coach
- Guided Ephesus tour
- 2 nights hotel in Kusadasi
- 1 night hotel in Istanbul
- 1 night hotel in Thessaloniki
- 2 nights hotel in Athens
- 11 open buffet breakfasts
- Guided tour in Cappadocia
- 1 Night accommodation in Plovdiv
- 1 Night accommodation in Sofia
- 1 Night accommodation in Sandanski
- Guided Visit of Rila Monastery
- Guided Sightseeing tour of Koprivshitsa
- Guided Sightseeing tour of Sofia
- Escorted Half All in One Panoramic Tour
- Guided Vergina Tour
- Guided Athens Sightseeing Tour
- Arrival airport transfer from Athens International Airport
- Escorted Thessaloniki Panoramic Tour
- Departure transfer to Bulgarian Borders

## **Excludes**

- International flights
- Insurance: All types
- Items of a personal nature such as alcoholic drinks, cold drinks, laundry
- Any others expenses which are not mentioned at the included section
- Country entry Visa

## **Routes**

## **Available On Dates**

2 March, 2020 - 15 March, 2021      Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,  
Saturday

## **Hotels**

ISTANBUL RAMADA HOTEL SUITES GOLDEN HORN KUSADASI 5 STAR SUHAN HOTEL  
ATHENS 4 STAR POLIS GRAND HOTEL THESSALONIKI 4 STAR CAPSIS HOTEL PLOVDIV 4  
STAR RAMADA TRIMONTSIUM HOTEL SANDANSKI 4 STAR SVETI NIKOLA HOTEL SOFIA  
4 STAR RAMADA SOFIA HOTEL