

Greek Island Getaway

8 days | Starts/Ends: Bodrum



Setting sail from Bodrum spend an idyllic week aboard a gulet, Greek island hopping and exploring Turkey's beautiful Aegean coast.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Knidos - An ancient city on the tip of the Datca peninsular
- Greece - Dodecanese Islands
- Kos Island - A popular Greek holiday island
- Nisiros - A volcanic island. Nikea Village mosaic style square
- Datca Peninsula - On the Turkish coast
- Rhodes - The largest of the Dodecanese Islands
- Symi - The picturesque port of Yialos

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 7 dinners
- 7 nights aboard an air-conditioned gulet in a shared cabin with WC (equivalent to a 3 star plus standard of accommodation)
- Welcome drink
- Services of the gulet captain and crew
- All relevant port taxes

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Airport arrival and departure transfers

- Drinks. With the exception of tea and coffee offered at breakfast
- Optional excursions and tipping. We recommend you allow a tip for your gulet crew of USD\$5 - \$10 per traveller per day. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Bodrum

Welcome to your gulet, your home for the following 7 nights, please note that embarkation begins at 3:30pm. The boat does not set sail until tomorrow morning, allowing you to independently explore Bodrum this evening.

Bodrum is a popular resort town with both foreign tourists and Istanbul – based weekenders. Its appeal mostly lies in its as yet undiscovered beauty by the masses yet this is changing with wealthy yacht owners mooring here on the way to far flung places and more tourists coming due to other areas such as Marmaris and Kusadasi becoming overcrowded. There are many watersport activities to take part in or perhaps an exploration of the incredible Castle of St Peter, built in 1406 by the Knights of St John to replace the fortress at Smyrna that had been destroyed by the Mongols. The castle is now home to the Museum of Underwater

Archaeology and is well worth the visit.
Overnight - Gulet (Bodrum) (D)

Day 2 : Kos



Bodrum - Kos. After breakfast you'll be given a briefing about the cruise itinerary and the boat. Then when the customs formalities are completed, we will cruise to the Greek island of Kos. Kos is a beautiful island with 290km of beach and a rich history. 3.5km northwest of Kos Town is ancient Asclepion, which was the birthplace of Hippocrates, the 'Father of Medical Sciences.' Kos is the second largest island of the 12 islands (Dodecanese islands) and has a very mild climate and very fertile lands. Upon arrival, you're free to explore and perhaps take a quick swim in Lambi Beach which is very close to Kos Harbor. Kos has a very lively nightlife and Nafklirou is the street with the most bars. **Overnight - Gulet (Kos) (B, L, D)**

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Day 3 : Nisyros



Kos - Nisyros. Early this morning we set sail to Nisyros stopping en-route for a swim. The volcano on Nisyros island erupted in 1422 and is still active. Nikea village which clings to the side of the crater has charming white streets and a mosaic-style square. There is an optional bus tour to Nikea and the crater, where you can see the gases rising up eerily from underground.

Overnight - Gulet (Nisyros) (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Symi



Nisyros - Symi. Our next port of call is to the charming bay of Nanou in Symi Island for a spot of lunch and swim before continuing to Symi Port where you'll see the picturesque shoreline. Symi is an enchanting island with pine and oak forests, beautiful bays and neo-classical houses. **Overnight - Gulet (Symi)** (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Rhodes

Symi - Rhodes. Early this morning we sail to Rhodes, the largest of the Dodecanese Islands. Rhodes Town is one of the largest and best preserved European Medieval cities and is steeped in history. The island was once the home of the knights of St John, then the Ottomans and Italians. The main port is in Rhodes Town, which is still surrounded by a 12m thick city wall and gives you the feeling of travelling back to Medieval times especially

when walking its narrow, stone-paved roads. Independently explore the island or you can join an optional tour of the Old Town or Lindos on the south coast. Picturesque Lindos is a popular holiday destination, with a beautiful bay and towering Acropolis. After dinner, we highly recommend that you to enjoy a night out in Rhodes Town. **Overnight - Gulet (Rhodes)** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Knidos



Rhodes - Datca - Knidos. We set sail back to the main land via Datca, where we have the opportunity to explore the harbour before continuing to our next stop - Palamutbuku, where we break for lunch and another chance to enjoy a refreshing dip in the Mediterranean. Our final destination today is Knidos on Turkey's Datca Peninsula. Knidos was once one of the most famous cities in the ancient world. Today temple foundations, toppled columns, huge amphitheatres and a necropolis are the remnants of Knidos' former glory. You can take a stroll around the shore to explore and see the ruins. **Overnight - Gulet (Knidos)** (B, L, D)

Day 7 : Black Island & Bodrum



Knidos - Black Island - Bodrum. Early this morning we cruise to Karaada (Black Island). After breakfast there's the opportunity to swim at Poyraz Bay on the northern side of the island. This beautiful bay has crystal clear, turquoise waters. We then make our

final journey back to Bodrum Harbour, where we'll have dinner and spend our last night.

Overnight - Gulet (Bodrum) (B, L, D)

Day 8 : Bodrum

Bodrum. After breakfast tour arrangements draw to a close and you'll disembark the boat at 10.30am. If you need an onward transfer to the airport this can be arranged at the time of booking. We hope you have enjoyed your adventure through Turkey and Greece.(B)

Our partners

This tour is operated in conjunction with our trusted partner and you will join travellers who booked through different operators, not solely On The Go.

Arrival information

On day 1 you will need to make your own way to Bodrum Port. Embarkation commences from 3:30pm. Unfortunately, as the Port Authority locates the ships in a different berth each day, we cannot provide a dock number. Therefore on the day you will need to call Mr Gokçe Kemerli +90 544 699 99 78 or Mr Ahmet Bektas +90 549 401 00 02, who will provide instructions on how to locate your gulet at the port. If you are unable to contact them we also have 24 hour emergency contact numbers that you can phone, which you will find on your tour voucher.

Transfers to Bodrum Port from Bodrum Airport or your accommodation in Bodrum (if applicable) are not included but can be booked upon request, please contact us for rates. The benefit of booking a transfer is that you will be escorted to your gulet and therefore you will not need to call and locate the gulet yourself.

Sailing arrangements

Our Greek Island Getaway sailing program is independent in style. ie sightseeing information is not offered by the captain or crew and there is not a tour leader on board. We suggest you bring along a good guide book for referencing places that you visit en route. Activities and excursions can be undertaken locally at your leisure and at a personal cost.

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Greek Island Getaway

The gulets are not operated by On The Go Tours and there will be passengers on board who have booked through other travel companies. Your fellow travellers may come from all walks of life, be of different ages and nationalities, but you will all have one thing in common - an interest in wanting to explore the Med.

Gulets

Turkish gulets are traditionally two or three masted wooden sailing vessels from the south western coast of Turkey, which were used for trading. Nowadays gulets have been adapted for recreational use, many of them aren't properly rigged for sailing and an onboard motor is used.

A typical gulet will take anything up to a year to build. The gulets are 15 - 30 meters in length and usually accommodate between 8 - 20 people. Gulets have a dining area and a spacious deck for relaxing and admiring the beautiful views. A dinghy with outboard motor, a ship-to-shore radio and mobile telephone are all on board, as well as life jackets for every person.

As life on board is spent mainly on the deck above, your cabin will simply be a place to lay your head, so although it contains a double bed and en suite facilities, it will be compact. You will need to use a large holdall or rucksack rather than a suitcase due to limited space in the cabins.

You will need to pack a towel x 2 (beach/shower) because they are not provided.

Please be aware that bringing your own drinks onto the gulet is not permitted but you can either opt to have all drinks included for a supplement, or buy drinks on board.

PLEASE NOTE: The information provided on the scheduled sailing route and stops at points of interest are offered as guidance only. It is at the captain's discretion to change the route, stops at points of interest or overnight stays due to the weather, sea conditions or to ensure the boat stays on schedule.

Visas - Greece

Please note visas advice for Greece is below:

Australian, British, Irish, New Zealand and United States passport holders do not require a visa to enter Greece.

South African passport holders are required to obtain a visa in advance from the Greek Consulate prior to travel. Visas cost €60 and applications must include 2 x recent passport photos and confirmation of travel. Proof of funds may also be required (usually €40 a day).

Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your date of arrival to Greece. Please re-confirm all visa requirements with the Greece embassy at least one month before travel. Visa procurement is subject to change and remains the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Greece Country Guide

Greece Visas

UK, AUS, NZ, USA and CAN passport holders do not require a visa at present to enter Greece for touristic purposes, for a stay of up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

For passport holders of other nationalities not included here, please check the <http://www.projectvisa.com/visainformation/Greece> website for more information.

South African Residents

Greece is part of the borderless region known as the Schengen Area and South African passport holders require a Schengen visa in order to enter Greece. A passport valid for at least three months from your departure is required and a visa will only be issued if blank pages are available.

Requirements for the procurement of a visa are subject to change but application requirements include round-trip travel itinerary specifying entry and exit dates from the Schengen state and proof of funds to support yourself during your stay, ask your bank for this, it should include your name too.

R600 per person per day is required with a minimum of R3600

You'll need to contact the consulate general in Johannesburg directly for inquiries and questions regarding visa regulations and passport requirement at <http://www.mfa.gr/johannesburg>.

Greece Hotel Tax

From January 2018, a new "overnight stay" tax has been imposed by the Greek government. This tax amounts to €1.50 per room per night for 3 star hotels, €3.00 per room per night for 4 star hotels and €4.00 per room per night for 5 star. This tax cannot be included in our tour price and you will need to pay this upon check in at each hotel so please budget accordingly.

Airport Transfers

An arrival transfer is included on day 1 and a departure transfer on the final day of your tour. Please note that only one complimentary transfer is offered per booking so if you are on different flights to your travelling companions a supplement will apply.

Climate

Summer in Greece

The climate in Greece is typical of the Mediterranean climate with two seasons - a warm and dry summer, and a mild and wet winter. Summer is a long season with temperatures climbing to a pleasant degree as early as late February. March and even April can be somewhat unpredictable months with the occasional rain shower and windy conditions though at this time of year the landscapes are decorated with beautiful wild flowers.

The shoulder months between May and June still offer lovely weather conditions but without the crowds. It's warm on the islands and the waters are nice enough for a swim. Peak tourist season doesn't start until mid-June and lasts until early September. During this time the islands are buzzing with people, both travellers and locals alike. If you're visiting during this time it's best to book hotels, flights and local ferries as far as in advance as possible to avoid disappointment and secure better prices.

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Between September and mid-October the soft light and delicate colours are particularly suited to photography. The sea water retains the heat of the mid-summer months so swimming is definitely still on the cards.

Winter in Greece

By late-October many parts of Greece begin to experience stormy conditions with more frequent cloud cover and rain showers. The tourist season comes to an end and prices drop off considerably. Few international travellers visit the Greek islands between November and February so crowds are thin.

Time & Voltage

Greece lies in the Eastern European Time Zone, which is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +2).

During summer, daylight-saving is observed in Greece, where the time is shifted forward by 1 hour so it becomes 3 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +3). After summer the time in Greece is shifted back by 1 hour to Eastern European Time. In 2017, daylight savings takes place between 26th March and 29th October.

Standard voltage is 220-240 volts. Primary sockets generally require European plugs of the two round-pin variety. We recommend that you pack a universal travel adaptor. You will need a voltage converter and plug adaptor in order to use U.S. appliances.

Health Requirements

You should seek medical advice from your local health practitioner before travelling to Greece and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. Just make sure you're up to date for recommended vaccinations for your home country, including measles, mumps and polio. Other vaccines to consider are Tetanus and Tick-borne Encephalitis. Visit the NHS Fit to Travel page or the CDC Traveler's Health Page for more information.

Currency & Holiday Money

The official currency in Greece is the Euro. Check OANDA for latest exchange rates.

British Pounds, US Dollars and other major currencies can be easily exchanged locally in banks or bureau de change prior to departure. Credit cards such as Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted in most major hotels, restaurants and shops, but keep some cash on hand, especially on the islands and in smaller towns. Use of American Express is not as common.

Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees

Although Greece has become a hugely popular tourist destination in recent years, it remains relatively affordable. We recommend if you are on a budget that you avoid the often overpriced restaurants and cafes that line the main squares and chose places to eat a few streets back. A meal in an inexpensive restaurant with drinks will cost around USD \$12, and a pint of domestic beer costs about USD \$4.10, while a one way ticket on public transport will only set you back about USD \$1.65.

Shopping

Greece is a cultural haven, and you will find a wide range of arts and crafts wherever you go. Locally hand-crafted ceramics, textiles, wood carvings, and jewellery make for wonderful souvenirs, especially from the Greek islands. Many destinations pride themselves on specific products – for instance, the monasteries at Meteora are famed for hand-painted religious icons. If you are shopping for antiques, do beware of fakes and stick to reputable traders.

In Athens, the ancient tradition of the agora (public forum) continues today in spaces such as the Monastiraki market, where you will find souvenirs for all tastes, ranging from tailor-made leather sandals to mass-produced Parthenon replicas. Another popular shopping option nearby is Ermou Street, which offers a wide selection of local and international brands. The island of Thessaloniki also caters to shoppers with its boutique-filled main square and a variety of malls near the city centre.

If you are looking to bring a taste of Greece home with you, olive oil from the Peloponnese, honey from Attica, and wines from Santorini are excellent products to look out for.

Is bargaining acceptable in Greece?

Bargaining is generally not accepted in Greece - in most shops there will be a fixed price for goods on sale. In the flea markets and with street vendors, a bit of bargaining may be more appropriate.

Greek Cuisine

Greek food has a venerable history dating back to antiquity. Although the country's rocky terrain limits its agricultural output, cooking and cuisine are essential to its culture. Olives, cheese, and wheat are integral parts of the local diet, appearing in salads, stews, and breads. Seafood at restaurants – often squid, octopus, mussels, and fish - is likely to come fresh from the Mediterranean, especially on the Greek islands.

Greek cuisine is simple but incredibly varied. In terms of popular dishes, you will find moussaka (aubergine & lamb casserole), souvlaki (spit-roasted meat), and dolmades (vine leaves stuffed with meat & herbs) in many tavernas and restaurants, sometimes with regional variations. Meat-free options include briam (roasted vegetables in tomato sauce), and of course, Greek salad with olives & feta cheese. For indulging your sweet tooth, pastry shops serve delicacies such as Turkish-inspired baklava (filo pastry layered with honey and chopped nuts). Ice cream and honey with yogurt are also common sweet snacks.

Drinks are a major part of the traditional dining experience. Ouzo, an anise-flavoured spirit distilled from pressed grapes, is Greece's most popular alcohol, usually served as an aperitif with iced water and some small appetizers. Be careful not to drain your glass too quickly – it is a strong drink, meant to be enjoyed over a period of time.

Drinking Water

In the major cities, it's generally safe to drink water from taps and also from drinking fountains. However, it is strongly

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recommended to stick to bottled water on most islands and in rural areas.

Tipping

Tipping customs in Greece vary widely. Service charge may be included in the bill, but tipping remains a common practice, especially in popular tourist destinations. Your tip should reflect the service so if it was excellent, 10% is an added bonus. At some restaurants, a small mandatory 'cover charge' for bread & water is also included in the bill (usually about one Euro per person). Taxi drivers usually expect tips and it is also standard to tip hotel porters and local tour guides. If the concierge is particularly helpful, people often tip 1 to 2 Euros.

Turkey Country Guide

Visas & passports

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Turkey.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible.

Australian, British, Canadian and Irish passport holders can obtain a 3-month tourist e-visa online prior to departure. Costs are currently USD\$60 for Australian and Canadian passport holders, USD\$20 for British, USA and Irish passport holders. South African passport holders currently need an e-visa but there is no charge for this. New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa for a stay not exceeding 3 months.

To arrange a Turkey e-visa online go to: <https://www.evisa.gov.tr>

After suspending all visa services for U.S citizens in October 2018, the Turkish Government have now announced the resumption of limited visa services for U.S. citizens. U.S citizens are not eligible for E Visas and must apply for a visa via their nearest consulate or embassy. Please note that the Turkish Government may change

the visa requirements/restrictions at any time. If you are a U.S Citizen who plans to visit Turkey, it is essential that you contact your local Turkish embassy/consulate for the latest advice.

Turkey health requirements & water

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Turkey from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all the appropriate vaccinations. The tap water in Turkey is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

Turkey essential packing & currency

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com to get an idea of what the weather will be like on your tour.

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- A photocopy of your passport data pages and your Tour Voucher
- The voltage in Turkey is generally 220V and outlets fit a two-pin European plug. You should pack a Universal Adaptor and check that it is suitable for Turkey
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy
- If you fancy a tippie, take advantage of Duty Free
- Take out some Turkish Lira from the ATM facilities at the airport upon arrival
- Buy a phrasebook and practice locally
- Keep a supply of small Turkish Lira notes for local transactions

The official currency in Turkey is the Turkish Lira. Euro, British Pounds, US Dollars and other major currencies can be exchanged locally or in advance of departure. Exchange facilities are available at various bureau de changes and banks in major towns have ATMs. Traveller's Cheques are not recommended as they're often difficult to exchange and incur high fees.

It's not like home

Travelling to far-flung corners of the earth often involves encountering lifestyles and conditions that are very different from what you are used to back home. As such it is important to come prepared for unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect everything to go exactly as planned, as things can and do change in foreign countries. The people, customs, creed and languages are different from one region to the next.

Turkey is a country of unparalleled contrasts, a destination where you'll be afforded plenty of unique encounters, and if you can travel with an open mind you will have a wonderful time here. In return, please remember to demonstrate sensitivity and respect for local customs.

Troubleshooting

Most people find that Turkey is a safe and friendly country but as in any foreign place you should exercise a reasonable degree of caution. Don't walk around lonely back streets at night (particularly in Istanbul), don't wear expensive looking jewellery or a classy watch and don't carry a wallet in your back pocket. Don't carry your camera openly; always have it in a small day pack which is firmly attached to your body, preferably in the front in crowded places. Take particular care not to become too relaxed if you have had a few drinks and are returning to your hotel at night – it is best to always take a taxi. Always wear a money belt or leave your valuables, including your passport, in the hotel security box.

Shopping

Turkey is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul is cavernous and full of unusual and everyday objects. Known locally as Kapali Carsi – the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul's Old City is a massive conglomeration of shops (some 4000) divided into areas specialising in gold, carpets, leather, souvenirs and clothing. Turkish handicrafts include a rich variety of textiles and embroideries, articles of copper, onyx and tile, mother-of-pearl, inlaid articles,

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leather and suede products. Jewellery, carpets and kilims represent top buys at the bazaar. Opening hours: Mon - Saturday 0900 – 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

The Egyptian Spice Bazaar at Eminonu near Istanbul is an easy continuance from the Grand Bazaar or good start point before heading onto the cavernous Grand Bazaar. Here, you can buy a dizzying array of spices at a fraction of the cost you'd expect to pay back home. Pine Kernels, peppercorns, real Iranian saffron and other precious commodities are hawked here at knockdown prices! Real Turkish delight is available by the tonne as well. Why not the milk-based Turkish delight studded with pistachios! Opening hours: 0900 – 1900hrs Monday – Sunday.

Markets and bazaars abound in other towns, too. During your stay in Turkey, you may visit a leather manufacturer and emporium. Although the quality of some of the jackets and clothing outstanding, the initially quoted prices can also be rather outstanding. If you do fancy a particular item, haggle, even if you are in the confines of what looks to be a smart showroom.

Carpet Buying

Turkey is justly famous for its carpets and kilims (a napless woven rug) and you'll be spoilt for choice. To ensure you get a good buy, spend time visiting several shops to compare price, pattern-type and quality. A good quality, long-lasting carpet should be 100% wool. Check the quality of the weave for possible holes. A wool carpet will have fine, frizzy fibres if you turn the carpet on its back. Cheaper carpets are made of cotton and most often the fringe will be too. If you want a wool carpet and the fringe is of cotton, it's likely the carpet won't be a woollen one! The lies can be bigger than the fall of Ottoman Empire. Don't make the mistake of buying a cotton carpet at the price of a wool one! Many carpets are made to look like antiques at prices to match.

IMPORTANT FOR ALL SHOPPING

When bartering for goods, set your budget, don't be swayed and remember the caveat – 'let the buyer beware.' In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending

particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises. Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Turkey National Holidays

1 January - New Year's Day

23 April - Children's Day

1 May - Labour Day

19 May - Youth Day

30 August - Victory Day

6 October - Liberation War Day

25 December - Christmas Day

Important: there are several religious public holidays whose dates are determined by the Islamic lunar calendar and differ every year according to the universal Gregorian calendar.

Approximate Ramazan dates: 13 April - 12 May 2021. The month of Ramazan (Ramadan), the ninth of the Islamic calendar, is a great time to travel in the region as you get a real insight into the Muslim faith. It is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends. The fasting is intended to help teach Muslims self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity. It also reminds them of the suffering of the poor, who may rarely get to eat well.

During the day, people must refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sexual activity, so if you encounter someone who is a bit grumpy please be understanding, flexible and

sympathetic. As tourists you will be generally unaffected although some places may close early, but your tour leader will do their best to plan around this. Most hotels bars and tourist restaurants will remain open. In the evening you will experience a celebratory atmosphere at iftar, when people break their fast. To witness Ramazan is a real highlight making your tour in the region that bit more interesting. Each year it begins roughly ten days earlier than the year before, according to the Gregorian calendar.

Turkey Site Opening Times

Popular sightseeing spot in Istanbul are closed on specific days. Please plan your visit accordingly.

Topkapi Palace - Closed Tuesdays

Grand Bazaar - Closed Sundays

Blue Mosque - Closed during all prayer times and Friday's until 3pm

The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows for 2020:

1, 2, 3 August / 29 October

The Spice Bazaar and Grand Bazaar are closed as follows for 2021:

01 January / 13, 14, 15 May / 20, 21, 22, 23 July / 29 October

All museums in Turkey will open at 1pm, on the 13th of May and 20th of July 2021

Blue Mosque Renovations

The Blue Mosque (also known as Sultanahmet Camii in Turkish) is currently undergoing renovations and for the foreseeable future there will be scaffolding erected inside and other construction works will be taking place. Whilst we will visit the inside of the Blue Mosque when included on a tour, please be aware that some parts of the Mosque may be off limits to tourists.

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