

# Turkish Delight

## 8 Days | Starts/Ends: Bodrum



*Sail through the beautiful waters and stunning scenery of the Gulf of Gokova on this 8 day gulet cruise. Discover incredible swimming spots, forest shrouded bays and picturesque fishing towns.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Bodrum Harbour - Explore the highlights of this lively port in your own time
- Visit picturesque bays and islets and sail through stunning scenery
- Seven Islands - Discover the beautiful scenery of this area
- Tuzla and Longoz Bay - Take a dip in the crystal clear turquoise waters
- Cleopatra (Sedir) Island - Enjoy a swim at this beautiful white sand beach where Cleopatra is believed to have swam
- Boat trip along the Dalyan River to Turtle Beach (optional excursion)

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 7 dinners
- 7 nights aboard an air-conditioned gulet in a shared cabin with ensuite bathroom with shower (equivalent to 3 star standard of accommodation)
- Services of gulet crew

- Applicable 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. Bodrum is a popular resort town with both foreign tourists and Istanbul – based weekenders. It's 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 : Seven Islands



Bodrum - Kufre Bay. After a leisurely start this morning your crew will set course for our first stop, Orak Island. This uninhabited island is surrounded by crystal blue waters and you'll have plenty of time to swim in this idyllic environment.

After lunch we'll continue to the Seven Islands region, where we'll find small islands with vibrant coral reefs. You'll have the opportunity to take a walk through the pine forest that covers these unpopulated islands. After

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exploring the many inlets and bays of the area we'll head to our final stop of the day, Kufre Bay, where we'll enjoy dinner and our overnight stay. **Overnight - Gulet (Kufre Bay)** (B, L, D)

## Day 3 : Tuzla and Longoz Bay

Kufre Bay - Balli Su. Enjoy a refreshing morning swim to get you ready for the day ahead. Our first point of call today will be Tuzla Bay, with rugged coastline and calm blue waters, it's a perfect place to unwind and breath in the serenity.

After a delicious lunch your boat will meander it's way to Longoz Bay, a stunning spot, surrounded by pine trees. You might want to take a swim or relax with a book.

Later we'll continue to Balli Su where we'll anchor for the night and enjoy dinner on board. **Overnight - Gulet (Balli Su)** (B, L, D)

## Day 4 : Cleopatra Island



Balli Su - Okluk Bay. We head for Cleopatra (Sedir) Island, famed for it's elegant white sand beaches and Byzantine ruins. It's believed that Cleopatra and Antonius used to swim here, whilst the sand is said to have been brought to this part of Turkey from Egypt. After some time to explore the beach and the surrounding area we'll set sail for Okluk bay, our overnight spot. **Overnight - Gulet (Okluk Bay)** (B, L, D)

## Day 5 : Ayinda Bay



Okluk Bay - Ayinda. Today an optional excursion will be offered, starting at Turtle Beach, a large breeding ground for the rare and endangered loggerhead sea turtles. You'll then continue through the green delta of Dalyan before reaching the ancient rock tombs from English Harbour. English Harbour is named after the large British Navy presence which was docked here during World War II.

This afternoon you'll have a chance to take a dip before we make our way to the beautiful bay of Ayinda, where we'll anchor for the night. **Overnight - Gulet (Ayinda Bay)** (B, L, D)

## Day 6 : Cokertme Fishing Village

Ayinda - Kisebuku. We'll sail to the picturesque fishing village of Cokertme this morning, where you'll have the opportunity to take a walk along the shore and take in the relaxed atmosphere. Centred around the beach this sleepy town is free from the swathes of tourists you mind find further along the coast.

After lunch we'll continue to Kisebuku, our anchor spot for the night. A deserted beach awaits us, with ruins dotted along the shore. Feel free to explore the area or simply relax on board, but be sure to return to the boat for dinner. **Overnight - Gulet (Kisebuku)** (B, L, D)

## Day 7 : Pabucburnu



Kisebuku - Bodrum. Our final day of sailing takes to Pabucburnu before we head back to the bustling port of Bodrum. There will be an optional tour for those that wish to visit the nearby village to gain an insight in to the local life and culture.

Arriving back into Bodrum Port this afternoon, we'll enjoy a final farewell dinner on board. **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.

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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 Aegean Islands Escape 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.

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

#### 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](http://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

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- 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 tipple, 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 bureaux 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, 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

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**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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