

City of Sultans

4 days | Starts/Ends: Istanbul



Visit Istanbul – the only city that spans two continents. See the beautiful Blue Mosque and ancient Hagia Sofia, explore opulent Topkapi Palace and test your bartering skills in the Grand Bazaar. 4 days of pure Turkish delight!

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Istanbul – Sultanahmet (Old Istanbul), Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia and Topkapi Palace
- Egyptian Spice Market and the Grand Bazaar
- Cruise along the Bosphorus Strait
- Beyerbeyi Palace and Buyuk Camilica – The city's highest vantage point

What's Included

- Breakfast daily and 2 lunches
- 3 nights Superior hotel. Standard and Deluxe hotel options are also available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
- Guided sightseeing – Istanbul sights* on days 2 and 3, plus a leisurely cruise along the Bosphorus. *Please note: Your guided sightseeing may

be conducted with other passengers (private touring is available upon request for an additional cost)

- English speaking, degree qualified Turkish tour guides on days 2 and 3
- Entrance fees to all included sites
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private modern air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping – an entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Istanbul



Welcome to Turkey! Arrival at Istanbul airport where after you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, you'll be met by one an On The Go representative, who will be

easily recognised by the company sign he/she is carrying. From here, you'll be transferred into Istanbul.

Day One is designed to be an arrival day, so there are no formal arrangements on this day. If arriving early enough into Istanbul, you'll have time to get acquainted with this remarkable city. Istanbul is easy to get around on foot and there are plenty of restaurants and cafes dotted about the city. If arriving before day 1 of the tour you will need to make your own way into Istanbul and to our hotel at your own expense. **Overnight – Istanbul**

Day 2 : Old City sights



This morning embark upon a fully guided tour of the only city that spans two continents, Europe and Asia. Officially founded by Emperor Constantine in AD326, it remained capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman

City of Sultans – 4 days

www.onthegotours.com – info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

City of Sultans

empires up until 1923. Its illustrious past leaves a rich legacy of churches, mosques, palaces and museums, complemented by the behemoth Grand Bazaar and colourful street life. Sultanahmet, the compact old city of Istanbul is full of parks, gardens and stunning sights. Before lunch, visit the Hippodrome area – famed as the centre of Byzantine life for 1000 years and of Ottoman life for another 400! Continuing, explore the stunning Blue Mosque. Famed for its prized blue Iznik tiles and unique six minarets, it faces the Hagia Sofia.

The Hagia Sofia, constructed as a grand basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian reigned as the grandest and biggest church in Christendom until the conquest of Constantinople in 1453, when it became a mosque. It is now a national museum, rather than a place of worship. After lunch, enjoy explore Topkapi Palace. Residence of the sultans for almost four centuries, it overlooks the Sea of Marmara. There's also time to wander around the Grand Bazaar (if open) before returning to your hotel. The Grand Bazaar has over 4000 stalls selling a wide range of goods including gold, carpets, leather, clothing and Turkish handicrafts. **Overnight – Istanbul (B, L)**

Day 3 : Bazaars & the Bosphorus



Today, visit the Egyptian Spice market (stock up on bargain saffron, spices and Turkish Delight here!) before enjoying a cruise on the Bosphorus – the body of water that separate European from Asian Istanbul. Later,

visit the Beyerbeyi Palace in all its sultanate splendour and take in the stunning views atop the city's highest point – Buyuk Camlica. Return to your hotel and spend the remains of the day at leisure. If you weren't able to visit the Grand Bazaar on day 2, consider a spot of retail therapy there this evening and test your bartering skills! **Overnight – Istanbul (B, L)**

Day 4 : Istanbul

Arrangements end after breakfast.(B)

ACCOMMODATION

Highlighted below are some of the accommodation/ hotels which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these stays to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel or start point and further arrival information.

Ramada Old City

A member of the reputable Ramada chain, the Istanbul Old Town property is modern and comfortable with excellent amenities. Guestrooms are bright and spacious with contemporary amenities. Two restaurants are on offer and our personal favourite is the wonderful roof top restaurant, serving delicious local cuisine coupled with a magnificent view of the City and Sea. The perfect way to end the day. Located in the heart of the Old City, near the Basilica Cistern and walking distance from all of the major monuments.



Kent Hotel

The charming Kent Hotel is a great example of contemporary design and a friendly atmosphere. Guest rooms are superbly equipped with modern facilities including Wi-Fi

connectivity, state of the art technology and bright marbled bathrooms. Enjoying a delicious Turkish meal at the in house Calcedoine Restaurant after a hard days sightseeing is highly recommended. The hotel is also fantastically located within a 10-minute walk of the Grand Bazaar and Old Town in the Bayazit area in the European side of Istanbul.



BEFORE YOU GO

Please note

Planning when to travel – Topkapi Palace is closed on Tuesdays, Hagia Sofia is closed on Mondays and the Grand Bazaar is closed on Sundays. Please consider this when booking.

Guided touring – Your sightseeing on days 2 and 3 may be conducted with other passengers. Private touring is available upon request, for a supplement – please enquire.

Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the “included” section on the first page of this document for details. Should you opt for an alternative hotel category, this will be confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the “hotels” tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) – but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

City of Sultans – 4 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

updated on 05-10-2022 07:50:58

City of Sultans

STANDARD – Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.

SUPERIOR – Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.

DELUXE – Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

LUXURY – Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard – the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD \$5-7 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Turkey Country Guide

Visas and passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and 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 so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For

information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Visas

Turkey health requirements and 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.

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Universal travel adaptor
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy
- 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

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.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

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 to Sat 0900 – 1900hrs (closed Sunday).

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.

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

City of Sultans – 4 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

updated on 05-10-2022 07:50:58

City of Sultans

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.

What to expect and Ramadan

Ramadan dates: 22 Mar - 20 Apr 2023 & 10 Mar - 08 Apr 2024 (approx). 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. 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.

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Turkey/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and

other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

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:

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.

City of Sultans - 4 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

updated on 05-10-2022 07:50:58