

## Trip Info

**Group Size:** Min: 15 | Max: 28

**Transportation:** Ferry, Plane, Coach

**Tips:** Payable locally, allow approximately €125pp

**Destinations Visited:** Istanbul, Troy, Canakkale, Gallipoli, Pergamum, Kusadasi, Ephesus, Samos, Patmos, Athens, Delphi, Kalambaka, Meteora & 3 Island Cruise

**Greece and Turkey's great history will offer you a destination like no other. This tour will take you down the stunning west coast of Turkey, to traditional Greek islands and the spectacular mainland of Greece and its ancient sites.**



### A city of contrasts and colourful views

Our tour follows a unique itinerary as we start in Turkey's capital Istanbul. This is a fascinating city as the old world architecture seems to blend in harmony with the newer more modern parts of the city. Our sightseeing here includes the magnificent Topkapi Palace, the unique Blue Mosque, Chora Church, the incredible Basilica of St Sophia and the exotic spice bazaar.

### Discover ancient cities

From Istanbul we continue touring Turkey going to Gallipoli, where we pay homage to the Anzac legend before continuing on to the ancient cities of Pergamum and Ephesus. Pergamum, was once home to Alexander the Great and is famous for the invention of parchment paper. Ephesus is the largest ancient city ever uncovered, once home to more than 300,000 people it's a great place to get a feel for what life was like in the time of the Romans.

### Greek island hopping & the mainland

As part of our tour we'll also spend time on the Greek Islands Samos and Patmos. On Samos we'll visit the ancient sites of Heraion & Efpalinion and enjoy some of the tasty, locally made honey. On Patmos we visit the monastery of St John and the cave of the Apocalypse. After relaxing on the island we travel to the mainland of Greece and visit the beautiful countryside and historic sites of Delphi. We also cross through the mountains of central Greece to the fascinating monasteries of Meteora also known as hanging rocks. Our tour of Greece ends with time in Athens where we explore the Acropolis and Parthenon before enjoying a relaxing day cruising around 3 wonderful Greek islands.

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## Itinerary

### **Day 1 Depart Australia**

### **Day 2 Arrive in Istanbul**

Welcome to Istanbul. On our arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel. Tonight get to know your fellow travellers at our welcome dinner. [D]

### **Day 3 Istanbul**

An action-packed day as we spend a full day touring the wonderful city of Istanbul. We start with the famous Hippodrome before continuing to the magnificent Basilica of Hagia Sophia, one of the world's oldest standing churches, it has inspired architects and religious leaders for over fifteen hundred years. Constructed in the 6th century by Justinian, it has been a cathedral, a mosque, and is now a museum. We then visit the unique and iconic Blue Mosque, famed for its 6 minarets, and the opulent Topkapi Palace, once home to the great sultans. This afternoon try your bargaining skills at the aromatic Spice Bazaar. [B]

### **Day 4 Istanbul - Gallipoli - Canakkale**

This is a special day as we make our way down to Gallipoli to pay homage to the great Australian spirit of the ANZAC. Here we visit Anzac Cove, Johnston's Jolly and the Lone Pine Memorial. [B,D]

### **Day 5 Canakkale - Troy - Kusadasi**

We start today with a visit to Troy, with its symbolic wooden Trojan Horse before continuing to the ancient city of Pergamum, once ruled by Alexander the Great. [B,D]

### **Day 6 Ephesus**

A wonderful day of antiquity as we visit Ephesus, a great place to get a feel for what life was like at the time of the Romans. The largest city ever uncovered Ephesus was once home to more than 300,000 people and its enormous amphitheatre can still hold 24,000 spectators. We also visit a local municipality carpet co-op to learn about Turkish carpets, before visiting the Temple of Artemis, the Church of St John and the historic hill village of Sirince. [B]

### **Day 7 Kusadasi**

This morning we visit the Sacred House of the Virgin Mary. We also visit the ancient sites of Miletus and Priene. At Miletus, the ruins lie on a hill near the Aegean Sea, there is an impressive ancient theater, built circa 4th century BC. The afternoon is at leisure. [B]

### **Day 8 Kusadasi - Samos**

This morning we bid farewell to Turkey and take a short ferry ride to the Greek island of Samos. Samos is a relatively big island and according to mythology is the place where goddess Hera was born. Here the rest of the day is at leisure for you to relax and enjoy this secluded Greek island. [B]

### **Day 9 Samos**

Today we explore Samos. Our touring begins with the ancient Greek sites of Heraion and Efpalinion, home to the 1,000m-deep tunnel of Samos - one of the most impressive engineering accomplishments of the ancient world, and once used to transport water through the mountains. We then continue around this picturesque island and have the chance to taste local wines, herbs and honey. [B]

### **Day 10 Samos**

The day is yours to relax and soak up the wonderful Aegean atmosphere of Samos. [B]

### **Day 11 Samos - Patmos**

Today we take the short journey by hydrofoil to the beautiful island of Patmos. It's one of the most religious Greek Islands because it is where Saint John the Divine had his revelation and wrote the Apocalypse. Here the rest of the day is free for you to relax. [B]

### **Day 12 Patmos**

This morning we start to explore Patmos with its impressive Monastery of Saint John which dominates the island. We then continue on to the Cave of the Apocalypse which is believed to be the place where John the Divine received his visions that are recorded in the New Testament. We end our tour in the picturesque port town of Skala. [B]

### **Day 13 Patmos - Samos - Athens**

We take the hydrofoil back to Samos today where we catch our flight to Athens. [B]

### **Day 14 Athens - Kalambaka**

A scenic day as we cross the mountains of central Greece to the small town of Kalambaka where we'll see the amazing backdrop of the steep Meteora Rocks. [B]

### **Day 15 Kalambaka - Delphi**

Today we visit the impressive Meteora, translated from Greek Meteora means 'suspended in the air' – these monasteries are as they sit perched perilously on the clifftops. They are truly unique. Later we continue to Delphi. [B]

### **Day 16 Delphi - Athens**

Delphi, considered by the ancient Greeks to be the centre of the world and the place where they were closest to the gods! Here we will have a guided tour of its archaeological delights and famous grand museum. [B]

### **Day 17 Athens - '3 Island Cruise'**

We enjoy a relaxing cruise to the nearby islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra. Lunch and a live Greek show on board are included. [B,L]

### **Day 18 Athens**

A day of history as we explore the vibrant city of Athens including the Acropolis, the magnificent Parthenon, Erectheion Temple and the lively Plaka area. The area of Plaka is one of the most attractive districts of Athens with its neoclassical mansions and small winding roads. Tonight we enjoy a wonderful group farewell dinner. [B,D]

### **Day 19 Depart Athens**

Today we begin our journey home. [B]

### **Day 20 Arrive in Australia**

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## **Inclusions**

### **Travel**

- Return economy class flights from Australia to Europe
- 1 domestic economy class flight in Greece
- Airport transfers on the first and last day of tour
- All touring conducted in air-conditioned coach

### **Accommodation & Meals**

- 17 nights accommodation in good quality hotels with private facilities (3½-4 star)
- 17 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 4 dinners, including group welcome and farewell dinners

### **Sightseeing**

- English-speaking, locally based tour directors

#### *Marvel at the wonder of Istanbul*

- Comprehensive sightseeing tours of Istanbul visiting the magnificent Topkapi Palace, the unique Blue Mosque, the Spice Bazaar, the famous Hippodrome and the domed Basilica of St Sophia. Built in 326AD by Constantine the Great, the Basilica has been a cathedral, a mosque and is now a museum

#### *Travel to the ruins of Troy*

- Visit Troy to see the symbolic wooden Trojan Horse commemorating the legendary Trojan War

#### *Time to reflect at Gallipoli*

- Pay homage to the Anzac legend in Gallipoli. Our tour includes Anzac Cove, the Lone Pine Australian Memorial, Johnston's Jolly, the Nek and Chunuk Bair New Zealand National Memorial.

#### *Journey to antiquity*

- Visit ancient Pergamum, once ruled by Alexander the Great and famous for the invention of parchment paper. Pergamum had a library containing 200,000 books!
- Visit Ephesus, the largest ancient city ever uncovered and once home to more than 300,000 people. See its famous library and the enormous amphitheatre, which can still hold 24,000 spectators!

#### *Explore the Aegean islands of Samos and Patmos*

- 3 nights on the beautiful island of Samos, the greenest of the Greek islands with forest covering most of the island
- Tour the ancient sights of Heraion and Efpalinion and take the chance to sample some local herbs, honey and wine
- 2 nights on Patmos, the northernmost island of the Dodecanese,
- Visit the monastery of Saint John and the cave of the Apocalypse where he lived and dictated to his disciple Prohoros what he'd seen and heard in his visions from God

#### *Magnificent Delphi*

- Visit the amazing cliff-top monasteries of Meteora
- Visit the mountain village of Arachova on our way to Athens
- At Delphi, on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, we visit the Temple of Apollo where the oracle spoke, the Castilian Fountain where pilgrims cleansed themselves and the Delphi Museum

#### *Cruising the Greek isles*

- Sit back and relax on a magnificent day cruise to the nearby islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra. Enjoy a tasty lunch and live show on board the boat

#### *Visit Athens, the cradle of Western civilisation*

- Full day of sightseeing in Athens passing by the Panathinaikon Stadium, the Presidential house, the Academy, the national library and the Parliament. Also includes the Acropolis and the wonderful Parthenon, a walking tour of the Plaka and the ancient Greek and Roman Agora



## Turkey & Greece

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### Dates & Prices

Start Date	End Date	Total Cost*	Status
13-Jun	02-Jul	\$6,790	On Request
18-Jul	06-Aug	\$6,900	Available
29-Aug	17-Sep	\$6,790	Available
12-Sep	01-Oct	\$6,590	Available

**Price Valid From:** Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane & Perth

**Single Supplement:** From \$1020 (subject to seasonality)

**Taxes:** Total cost includes air taxes of \$800

**Day/Date Variations:** Due to airline flight schedules day of arrival & day of departure may vary depending on your city of departure.

**\*Taxes & Fuel Costs:** Taxes & fuel surcharges change regularly so above levies shown as guide only.

All prices shown are per person based on twin-share and include airfares and all taxes. Prices and itineraries correct at current time but are subject to change. Please call for more details. View our [full terms & conditions here](#)

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## Accommodation

Hotels listed are subject to change and the below list should be used as a guide only. Every effort is made to avoid any hotel changes however if a change becomes necessary then a hotel of a similar standard will be used.

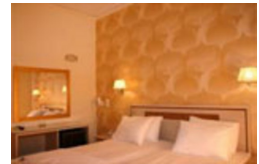
### **Golden Age Hotel, Athens**

The hotel is located in one of the safest areas of Athens, near the Music Hall and the USA Embassy, with lots of coffee shops and restaurants in the area. The Parthenon and the Athens central shopping centre as well as the main square of Athens (Constitution Square) are a ½ hour's walking distance away. You can also use the public bus (5 minutes walking distance at Mavilli Square) or the Metro (2 minutes walking distance to Megaro Musikis stop). Alternatively you can enjoy a nice stroll on one of the most well kept avenues of Athens, Vasilissis Sophias, where some of the most important buildings, monuments and Museums of Athens are located. The Kolonaki area is a high end area with many exclusive boutiques. It is a 10 minutes walking distance from the hotel. As you walk on Vasilissis Sophias Avenue towards Constitution Square, you turn right onto Patriarchou Ioakim Street



### **Samos Hotel, Samos**

In the beautiful city of Samos is the Samos Hotel. It's one of the most famous hotels of the island and offers the perfect choice for vacations for those who want to combine the traditional way and the comforts and services of one of the most synchronous Hotel. Perfect cleanliness, family atmosphere and the service from our trained personnel are some of the things you will experience staying at Samos Hotel. The Samos Hotel is about 800 meters from the beach of Gaggou, 17 kilometres from the airport and just 100 metres from the shopping centre of the city.



### **Ida Kale Resort, Canakkale**

Ida Kale Resort lies 15km from Canakkale's centre, 20km from the Troy Antique City as well as 20km from the Gelibolu Peninsula and Martry's Cemetery. Conveniently located, this hotel boasts its own private beach, pier and outdoor swimming pool. Comprised of 14 blocks, the resort accommodates 84 rooms which either have a pool or sea view.



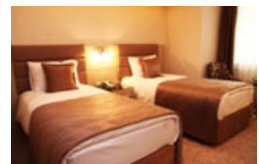
### **Skala Hotel, Patmos**

The Skala Hotel is located off of the street behind a lush garden. The hotel is set amongst a garden which houses the property's swimming pool, sun deck and bar. Each of the hotels rooms offer air conditioning, satellite TV, radio, direct dial phone, sea views or mountain views, balcony and other comfort amenities.



### **Amethyst Hotel, Istanbul**

Located at the heart of the historical peninsula and the shopping centre of Istanbul, the Amethyst Hotel provides top quality 4-star hospitality. It is within the Old Town of Istanbul and walking distance to the Grand Bazaar, Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and Basilica Cistern which are among the world's most important historical and cultural places.



### **Apollonia Hotel, Delphi**

Hotel Apollonia is situated in the modern city of Delphi at an ideal location, with majestic views to the Corinthian gulf. The magnificent rooms and modern facilities of all areas ensure a pleasant and luxury stay. At a distance of only 500m from the archaeological sites of ancient Delphi, 25 kilometres from the Parnassus mountain ski centre and 20 kilometres from the beaches Itea and Galaxidi, combines ideally the winter and summer sports such as ski and swimming, and the visit to the unique archaeological sites.



## Weather

The most popular months to visit Turkey range from April to October. However, the spring months of April and May and autumnal months of September and October do see slightly less visitors than the peak summer months of June, July and August.

The most popular time to travel to Greece is during the summer months of July and August as this is when the weather is at its hottest. The spring and autumn are also nice times to travel as the weather is still warm and pleasant.

<b>Samos</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Ave Max C</b>	13	13	16	19	24	29	32	32	28	23	18	15
<b>Ave Min C</b>	7	6	8	11	14	18	22	22	18	14	11	8
<b>Rainy Days</b>	13	7	6	4	2	1	0	0	1	2	7	10

<b>Istanbul</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Ave Max C</b>	8	9	11	16	21	25	28	28	24	20	15	11
<b>Ave Min C</b>	3	2	3	7	12	16	18	19	16	13	9	5
<b>Rainy Days</b>	18	14	14	9	8	6	4	4	7	11	14	18

<b>Athens</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Ave Max C</b>	13	14	16	20	25	30	33	33	29	24	19	15
<b>Ave Min C</b>	6	7	8	11	16	20	23	23	19	15	12	8
<b>Rainy Days</b>	16	11	11	9	8	4	2	3	4	8	12	15

## Currency

### **In Turkey:**

New Turkish Lira (TRY; symbol YTL) = 100 New Kurus (Ykr).

Notes are in denominations of YTL200, 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1.

Coins are in denominations of YTL1 and 50, 25, 10, 5 and 1 New Kurus.

The old Turkish Lira was taken out of circulation in 1996.

### **In Greece:**

Euro (EUR; symbol €) = 100 cents.

Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5.

Coins are in denominations of €2, 1 and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

## Optional Tours

### **FROM ISTANBUL:**

#### **Bosphorus Cruise – 1hr 15mins - €40pp - (Minimum 10 people)**

The magical journey which covers both European and Asian shores by our private boat will let you see the marvellous monuments and districts like: Maiden Tower (Kiz Kulesi), Dolmabahce Palace, Ciragan Palace, Ortakoy, Fethi Ahmet Pasa Mansion, Ortakoy Mosque, Beylerbeyi Palace, Kuleli Military School, Arnavutkoy, Bebek and more highlights of Istanbul located on both sides of the Bosphorus

### **FROM KUSADASI:**

#### **Turkish Night - 2-3hrs - €50pp - (Minimum 5 people)**

This performance demonstrates the traditional way in which a girl gets married in Turkey. The bride dressed in a beautiful red dress dances in the middle and the groom tries to win her affections by performing different shows for her. All the guests are then invited to join the dance floor with them. The highlight of the night is the Belly Dancer! She performs her breath-taking dance making her way around the room sharing the secrets of belly-dancing with some basic figures. The night concludes with a demonstration of the Fire Dance, Caucasian Dance with knives and a drum show. During the night the waiters will serve unlimited soft drinks and alcoholic beverages with appetizers.

### **\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\***

All tours are based on minimum as advised above and are subject to availability. The length of tours and price are a guide only and are subject to change without notice. Optional tours should be booked directly with your Tour Director whilst on tour and are cash only.



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### Travel Stories

#### Disclaimer

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