

CULTURE + WALKING

TURKEY

Turquoise Coast & Cappadocia



Classic
JOURNEYS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Rich Culture at the Crossroads of the World

Istanbul is our exotic, sensory-overloading introduction to Turkey. But the coast has always held a special allure for us, so we also take four leisurely days to explore it aboard a 100-foot teakwood yacht known as a “gulet.” On board, we live in comfortable cabins with private baths. Roaming from one quiet bay to the next. Walking on shore to remarkable sites like Ephesus and Caunos. Always with the decadent option of staying “at home” for a nap or a swim in the 75-degree waters. And no visit to Turkey is truly complete until you follow the fabled Silk Road through the land of whirling dervishes into the heart of Cappadocia with its ancient underground cities. If you’ve been longing for one of the most memorable destinations of your life, you’ve found it!

DAY 1

ISTANBUL

- Guided walking tour of the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia
- Festive welcome dinner

We meet in cosmopolitan and historic Istanbul, where East meets West. As we walk through the beautiful Sultanahmet district, we'll slip off our shoes for a hushed visit to the stunning Blue Mosque, built in the 1600s for the Sultan Ahmet and noted for its six minarets. As impressive as the Blue Mosque is, it is only an appetizer for the main course today—our visit to the Hagia Sophia, the architectural wonder of its time when Justinian dedicated it in AD 536. First a church, then a mosque, this present-day museum lies under heaps of domes inside dusky red walls and is a fine first "taste" of the city.

Founded in AD 326 by the emperor Constantine, the new city of Constantinople became—and still is—a treasury richly stocked with the finest pieces from the ancient world, the classical pagan ages, and the Christian period. The emperor's throne was once believed to be the center of the world. Our welcome dinner is at one of our favorite local restaurants and features local specialties, such as sis kofte (grilled croquettes of lamb), yaprak dolmasi (stuffed grape leaves), followed by a dessert of kabak tatlısı (pumpkin cooked with nuts and drizzled with syrup).

OVERNIGHT: ISTANBUL

MEALS: D

DAY 2

ISTANBUL-GOCEK

- Istanbul exploration
- Visit of Topkapi Palace
- Embark on your private teakwood yacht

We spend the morning and early afternoon today exploring Istanbul on foot—starting in Hippodrome Square, where chariot races were run when it was the capital of the Roman Empire. Mid-morning, we wander through the extravagant maze of the Covered Bazaar where hundreds of merchants offer everything from hammered brass to saffron to amber, ending at Topkapi Palace, the center of the Ottoman Empire. After an exploration here, we make our way to the airport for an afternoon flight to Dalaman, situated nicely along the coast. From there, we drive about an hour to Gocek, to board our yacht, known locally as a gulet ("goo let").

What is a gulet like? Locally built of teakwood and oak, it is a motorized sailing vessel of 90-110 feet in length and about 20 feet across its wide beam. There are 6-9 double cabins on board, each with a private bath and hot shower. The full-time crew of 3 or 4 includes captain, cook and mate, plus your Classic Journeys guide. The yacht's large foredecks are perfect for sunning; the covered afterdeck provides our dining and lounging area in addition to an inside lounge. When anchored offshore, we use a small motorboat to reach land. The sailing is smooth because from May through October, sea conditions are generally very calm, and we stay quite near the shore. Water temperatures average 75 to 80 degrees—and the water is crystal clear to depths of 30 feet or more! To our way of thinking, it's the ideal way to travel in Turkey. The vessel is authentic to the traditional sea-faring life along the coast, and it offers us an uncrowded, up-close view of the region.

OVERNIGHT: ON BOARD YACHT

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 3

AGALIMANI-LYDEA

- Sail to Agalimani
- Swimming and kayaking and options
- Coastal walk to Lydea

No manual labor for us! As we wake slowly to sunshine streaming in through the windows of our cabins, our captain and crew are already looking after breakfast and setting a course along the coast for a morning sail to Agalimani. Anchoring in the beautiful cove provides a number of distractions to going ashore, including several great places to read a favorite book, as well as swimming and kayaking.

After lunch, we start a coastal walk across the little peninsula and through the ruins of ancient Lydea. A delightful part of this walk is that we often encounter friendly local villagers on the way. Now...you may have joined a walking tour some time prior to this trip. And you might have even walked from village to village. But this is likely to be your first time walking yacht to yacht! In his always-considerate way, our captain has seen fit to sail the gulet around the peninsula while we walked, so that at the end of this beautiful hike we see our yacht waiting for us nestled into the cove at Hamam. As we walk down to meet the boat, we explore the ruins of partially sunken Roman baths lining the natural harbor. Our dinner and overnight setting is aboard the yacht in this lovely, calm bay. A typical dinner along the coast includes freshly caught fish; barbecued lamb and chicken; excellent local olives; green beans cooked with onion, tomato and olive oil; eggplant; yogurt with mint and garlic; and delicious borek pastry filled with goat cheese and herbs.

OVERNIGHT: ON BOARD YACHT

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 4

BABA DAG/KAYA KÖY

- Sail to Gemiler Island, known for its Byzantine ruins

Have you woken recently to the aroma of freshly brewed coffee infused with sea air? We like to sit on the aft deck and pair it with a very Mediterranean breakfast of seasonal fruit (fresh peaches, figs, cherries, melon, plums and pears), warm breads with pine honey, and local cheeses. Fortified, we sail a short distance to Gemiler Island and Oludeniz, a renowned cobalt lagoon at the base of the mountain called Baba Dag. At 6,000 feet, Baba Dag is a prime launching pad for paragliders and makes a great backdrop to our activities today. This first full day on your yacht, it's your choice how you spend your time. Maybe the sea will tempt you for some swimming and snorkeling, or enjoy a round-trip walk of 2-3 hours along a spectacular trail rising to a low pass overlooking the turquoise sea.

If you choose to join us for the walk, your reward is a fascinating abandoned village called Kaya Köy. This ghost town, spread over three hills, is eerily quiet and slowly crumbling. Over 600 homes belonged to Greeks who were repatriated to Greece around 1923 after their country unsuccessfully tried to invade Turkey in WWI. We wander

through the small roofless stone houses, now overgrown with wildflowers.

Later, we return to our yacht in one of the quiet coves around Gemiler Island, which contains numerous Byzantine ruins.

OVERNIGHT: ON BOARD YACHT
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 5

Ekincik Bay/Caunos

- Sail to Ekincik Bay
- Explore the Dalyan Estuary with a chance to spot endangered sea turtles and cliff tombs
- Visit Caunos and its Roman theater

Is it Wednesday or Thursday? Days of the week are starting to be less important with each morning that you awaken on the yacht. Happily, our captain and guide have a plan that includes a morning cruise to Ekincik Bay with ample time for a late morning dip in the Mediterranean.

This afternoon, the plan is to explore the Dalyan Estuary. Our yacht is too large to make it up this lovely, but narrow waterway, so we transfer to a smaller boat suited to the channels that meander, snake-like, through the reeds. Towering overhead, magnificent facades of Lycian tombs from the 4th century AD have been carved from the sheer cliff face. Keep your eyes sharp, as we have an excellent opportunity to spot the endangered sea turtles that lay their eggs on a sandy spit we pass. Pulling our boat ashore, a short walk to the hilltop ruins of Caunos provides the chance to scramble from the stage to the top row of the Roman theater. Crenellated and crumbled walls of an Ottoman fortress cap the site while Byzantine ruins guard the now-silted harbor. Inspired by the ancient ruins, we return to the gulet by boat for dinner.

OVERNIGHT: ON BOARD YACHT
MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 6

Ephesus/Kusadasi

- Bid farewell to our yacht
- Guided visit of Ephesus
- Overnight in Kusadasi on promontory overlooking the sea

After an early breakfast, we disembark in Marmaris or Ekincik and bid farewell to our captain and crew. Here our van meets us once again and we meander along the coast to Ephesus, one of the finest sites of Greco-Roman antiquity anywhere. On the plain beneath Ephesus, we'll pause at the Temple of Artemis, once one of the Seven Wonders of the World, now eerily still as a family of storks nest atop the lone standing column.

During the Roman Imperial period, Augustus declared Ephesus the capital of Asia and it became a center for trade and banking. With a population of over 200,000, it supported magnificent libraries, temples, agoras, baths, marble streets and amphitheaters. The Romans also allowed for freedom of religion and its inhabitants included Jews, Anatolians, Egyptians and Christians. The library facade here is one of the most familiar landmarks in Turkey, and the scope of the excavations is truly awesome. Ephesus is close to Kusadasi and our beautiful hotel where we stay

tonight. Located on a promontory overlooking the Aegean from every room, it's a perfect ringside seat for sunset. You'll also want to give in to the temptation of the blue-tiled infinity pool, which matches the color of the sea below.

OVERNIGHT: KUSADASI
MEALS: B, D

DAY 7

Cappadocia-Silk Road

- Flight to Cappadocia
- Uchisar citadel and whirling dervish performance

We leave the coast this morning to fly inland to remarkable Cappadocia, land of whirling dervishes and ancient underground cities. Following breakfast, a short drive to Izmir sets us on our way for a mid-morning flight to Kayseri (the capital of Cappadocia) via Istanbul.

Arriving here early afternoon, our minicoach meets us and we follow a portion of the ancient Silk Road to the natural citadel of Uchisar, for magnificent views of the entire Cappadocia region. From here, we walk down Pigeon Valley with its beautiful rock formations, cliff dwellings and village gardens.

Later in the afternoon, we arrive at our hotel with time to rest and relax before dinner. When silk was produced solely in China, great silk caravans would travel through here from the Far East to Istanbul. These caravans were made up of upward of 40 camels and 25 traders. Caravanserai—fortresses for rest and protection—were built about every 25 miles along the route, as this was the distance a caravan could cover each day. Following dinner, we have a special treat as we join our guide for a visit to the well-preserved Sarihan Caravanserai to see a whirling dervish performance.

OVERNIGHT: CAPPADOCIA
MEALS: B, D

DAY 8

Cappadocia-Goreme Valley

- Cappadocia explorations on foot
- Optional hot air balloon flight
- Lunch with a village family

Cappadocia is almost otherworldly. Your heart skips a beat the first time you see how nature has shaped the colorful limestone and sandstone into thousands of spires, fins, pinnacles and mazes. We'll explore it very well on foot today, but if you have a bit of an adventurer in you and you'd like to see it from a bird's eye perspective, we can arrange a truly memorable start to your day with an optional early morning hot-air balloon ride. After breakfast, our morning begins with a beautiful hike through one of the valleys of Cappadocia.

Midday, we visit a small traditional village, where a village family invites us into their home for a private lunch. Happy and satiated from our cultural exchange, we visit the vineyard-filled Goreme Valley and its open-air museum. With our guide, we explore the wealth of churches literally carved into the rocks and the best-preserved cave paintings in Cappadocia.

To round out our day, we visit the village of Avanos, the Anatolian center for pottery and ceramics, where a good

DAILY ITINERARY
TURKEY | TURQUOISE COAST & CAPPADOCIA | CULTURE + WALKING

friend of our guide shares with us the local techniques for pottery making. This evening, we gather together for a farewell dinner celebration.

OVERNIGHT: CAPPADOCIA

MEALS: B, L, D

DAY 9

CAPPADOCIA

- Underground cities of Kaymakli or Derinkuyu
- Return flight to Istanbul

Our final day together starts with a fascinating morning exploration of the underground cities of Kaymakli or Derinkuyu. These remarkable cities were inhabited from the 7th to 10th centuries when the Christian Cappadocians were under siege from Arab invaders. The sites were only

uncovered in the 1950s and provide a treasure of insight into life then. If the cultural and historical immersion you've enjoyed has you pining to bring home some of the treasures of Turkey, you are in luck.

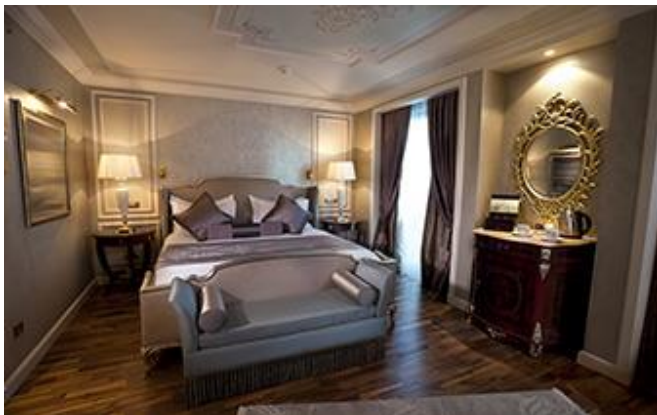
Midday, we visit a rug-weaving cooperative. Here we learn about all aspects of this traditional Turkish art and craft, and have the chance to bargain with the local rug sellers, with or without the help of our guide. Early afternoon, we make a short transfer to Kayseri airport, where our tour together ends with our hour-long afternoon flight to Istanbul.

We part company in Istanbul.

MEALS: B



Tour Hotels



Rixos Pera Hotel

The gracious and very elegant Rixos Pera is perfectly located in the historic Taksim area. Its grand public spaces and rooms are a serene oasis amid the bustle of Istanbul.

OVERNIGHT: TEPEBASI TAKSM | NIGHTS: 1



Classic Journeys Gulet

Our locally built teakwood yacht is a motorized sailing vessel of about 100 feet in length. There are 6-8 double cabins on board, each with a private bath and shower. The large decks provide our dining and lounging area.

OVERNIGHT: | NIGHTS: 4



La Vista Hotel

Perched on the edge of the Aegean, La Vista is Kusadasi's first deluxe boutique hotel. All rooms are balconied and offer 180-degree views of the sea, the perfect ringside seat to soak in a sunset. The manicured grounds include a spectacular infinity pool.

OVERNIGHT: KUSADASI | NIGHTS: 1



Kale Konak Hotel

This remarkable hotel lies inside the old walls of three typical Turkish houses. The classic cave rooms contain antique furniture. Situated next to the Uçhisar Castle, it sits at a high point and thrills with wide views of Cappadocia and Argeus Mountain.

OVERNIGHT: UCHISAR / NEVSEHIR | NIGHTS: 2

Tour Dates & Prices

PLEASE NOTE: We are running this trip privately for individual groups this year. If you would like to organize a private trip for you, your family or friends, please call or email us to discuss your trip details.

INTERNAL AIRFARE

This trip includes several internal flights which are priced separately from the land tour.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH: 9 Days, 8 Nights

START: 2:00 PM Lobby of Rixos Pera Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey

END: 6:00 PM Istanbul Airport, Istanbul, Turkey Guests will be transferred to the airport for their return flights.

TERRAIN: Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van in support.

What's Included

- Memorable accommodations for 8 nights
- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and all dinners, as well as open bar with all local drinks while on the gulet
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- **Wine on Us**
- **Privileged Access Events**
- **Invisible Check-In**

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-833-387-1210

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com



TRAVEL WORRY-FREE!

It's easy with insurance from Travel Guard. Your policy can cover trip cancellation, travel delays, lost luggage, medical emergencies, and more. If you are traveling with kids, add them to your policy at no extra cost. [Click here](#) or call 800-826-4919 for details.

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference



HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Turkey...

- Living aboard a teakwood yacht for four nights along the Mediterranean coastline
- Exploring the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia on walks in Istanbul
- Sitting down to lunch with a village family in Cappadocia
- Getting local access because of your local guide who introduces you to their friends and arranges invitations into private homes and workshops
- Joining your guide for an expertly-led exploration of Ephesus, site of the world's finest classical ruins

"The walks were magnificent. Yasemin set good paces for a mixed group. I appreciated that Yasemin ordered some of the restaurant meals for us. Food on the gulet was wonderful."

—Joan N., Indianapolis, IN

Let's Go!

TO RESERVE: 833.493.5038 | [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/RESERVATIONS](https://www.classicjourneys.com/reservations)

You might also enjoy...



Amalfi Coast

Positano & the Isle of Capri

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Wandering the ruins of legendary Pompeii
- Enjoying incredible hotels in Positano and Capri
- Walking seaside trails past magnificent villas

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/amalfi/>.



Croatia

Dubrovnik & Dalmatian Coast

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Strolling atop massive medieval walls at sunset
- Enjoying lunchtime camaraderie at a local winery
- Skirting the coast on shepherds' paths with jaw-dropping views

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/croatia/>.



Greek Isles

Crete, Mykonos & Santorini

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Exploring the remarkable ruins of Knossos and Delos
- Sampling the fruits of a cliff-hugging vineyard
- Taking in the iconic views from your hotel in Santorini

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/greece/>.

You might also enjoy...



Loire & Burgundy

Dijon, Chenonceaux & Châteaux

Culture + Walking

PICTURE YOURSELF...

- Tasting local wines in Burgundy and Loire
- Wandering twisting lanes of medieval towns
- Following riverside footpaths to stunning châteaux

For more information, visit <https://www.classicjourneys.com/loire/>.

“Enthusiasm is Contagious”

AS TRAVEL + LEISURE NAMES CLASSIC JOURNEYS THE WORLD'S BEST TOUR OPERATOR FOR 2019, FOUNDER EDWARD PIEGZA REVEALS HOW IT FEELS. ENTHUSIASTICALLY.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before publication of this issue, Travel + Leisure magazine announced that its readers have voted Classic Journeys the World's Best Tour Operator for 2019. It's the second time Classic Journeys has won that recognition and the 14th consecutive year the company has been in the Top 10.

Congratulations! How did you get the news?

I received a top-secret email and phone call from the editor of *Travel + Leisure* a few weeks ago with orders not to tell ANYONE. Friends and neighbors must have wondered why my smile has been so extra big lately. Now they know.

And how does it feel to be the World's Best Tour Operator again?

Awesome. Humbling. So, so satisfying. Deeply gratifying to learn that we have achieved what we set out to do which is to handcraft trips of a lifetime for every guest who travels with us. I'm known as long-winded, so I could probably come up with 10 or 15 more ways to describe it if you want me to keep going.

Why do you think *Travel + Leisure* gave you this recognition?

Actually, it isn't the *T+L* editors who make the decision. That's the best part. Their readers cast the votes. So the people who do the traveling, the guests who explore the world with us and our competitors — they are the ones who raised their hands to tell *T+L* that Classic Journeys is the World's Best Tour Operator based on their own experiences. Let me say it right here: "To all of you who voted for us, you are the World's Best Guests!"

What do you think makes your guests the World's Best Guests?

That's easy. They are curious. They care about connecting with people of different cultures and immersing themselves in the world. They treasure experiences more than things. Like the old ad slogan went, they go for the gusto and crave the chance to have one-of-a-kind moments. They are incredibly interesting and interested people, and all of us at Classic Journeys count it as a real privilege to share in their passion for travel. And we feel that way on the

other 364 days of the year when we're not celebrating recognition like this.

I guess this is what you meant when you told me that "Enthusiasm is contagious."

Absolutely. That's not our official motto, but it could be. We love what we do. We enjoy helping guests figure out how to invest their precious time and budget. I can honestly say that all of us feel that way — the Guest Services folks who interact with you while you're planning your trip, the Tour Operations team members who plan all of the logistics, the local guides who lead each one of our trips full time. There's just a huge amount of positive energy in what we do, and I think it truly is hard to resist. We'd climb into every one of our guest's suitcases and go along with them if we could. Because we can't, we call each guest while they're on tour just to be sure they are having a trip of a lifetime.

Has anyone ever called Classic Journeys obsessive?

I hope so, because we are. Everything is in the details. For instance, we've created a special tour for the total eclipse of the sun which is going to pass over parts of South America in 2020. We've already analyzed likely traffic patterns in the most remote areas and figured out how to structure our itinerary so that our guests will be in place in the path of totality while the people who don't plan ahead will be stuck in jams on remote dirt roads. We enjoy obsessing about details like that so that our guests never have to.



How can you top this?

Oh, we never let ourselves think of it that way. We just continue to approach every single guest on each and every departure like the most important guest we've ever had. It seems to be working! Of course, we keep looking for new ways to win more converts. For 2019, we've launched a new series of Classic Journeys that are based from

"I voted for you!"

We've heard that expression so many times lately from guests who registered their votes with *Travel + Leisure*. Given the results, we know it's true ... and you know that your votes really count!

STAFF AND GUIDES

"I always feel like I'm traveling with a best friend. I prefer your local guides to the ones that other companies fly in."

ITINERARIES AND DESTINATIONS

"If it's on my bucket list, you always seem to go there. Of course, with so many options you always seem to make my list longer and longer!"

ACTIVITIES

"On your trips, I've cooked with Michelin chefs, sung songs with Quechua schoolchildren, and walked on glaciers with the descendants of Vikings. Fun doesn't begin to describe it."

ACCOMMODATIONS

"How you manage so many 5-star properties on these trips shocks me. But please, please, please keep it up!"

FOOD

"I have never eaten so well so often so happily. When you people claim that you are foodies, you aren't kidding."

OVERALL VALUE

"We have never had a better vacation at any price."

river cruise boats. On a different note, seeing how many travelers can't always find as much vacation time as they really want, we have developed a series of 6-day or shorter quick trips that go as far afield as Iceland, the Galápagos and Morocco.

Final thoughts?

It's always an honor to win recognition. But, for all of us at Classic Journeys, the biggest privilege is to share the dreams of our guests and make those dreams come true. That connection is the best feeling of all.