

Private

Turkey

Turquoise Coast & Cappadocia



Classic
JOURNEYS™

DAILY ITINERARY

Turkey: Turquoise Coast & Cappadocia | Private



“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. Snorkeling over water-covered ruins. 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 adventure travel in Turkey is truly complete until you take in the fabled Silk Road to the heart of Cappadocia, land of whirling dervishes and 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 tatlisi (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 Uçhisar, 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 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 Taksim - Istanbul | **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

DAILY ITINERARY

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Tour Dates & Prices

| Tour Dates | Price Starting at | Single Supplement Starting at |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
|------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|

Want a different date? Or your own date? Visit CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE to learn more about private journeys.

Internal Airfare: This trip includes several internal flights which are priced separately from the land tour at an approximate cost of \$535 per person.

Trip Essentials

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| TRIP LENGTH | 9 Days, 8 Nights |
| START | Lobby of Rixos Pera Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey |
| END | Istanbul Airport, Istanbul, Turkey |
| 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

- Award-winning boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- 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

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

moreinfo@classicjourneys.com



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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!

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

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E., Red Lodge, MT