Istanbul / Konya

Religious Capital of Turkey: Konya



Tour code: IB-TR-3636

Duration: 1 day

From €3,636.00 / person

Starting point: Istanbul

Languages: English

Overview

In Konya, taking a tour of some of the wonderful Seljuk Turkish monuments that Rumi would have known and visited. Rumi is now one of the most widely read poets in America. Everything about Rumi is absolute magic, from the story of his life to his superhuman ability of remaining in constant touch with the flow of intense creative energy for more than two decades. Stroll the streets of Konya, visiting first the Tomb of Rumi in the glittering
Mevlana Museum
, an important place of pilgrimage for Muslims and indeed all lovers of Rumi.

Your itinerary

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Mehmet Semseddin Tebrizi was an itinerant dervish whose travels eventually brought him to Konya. Semsi Tebrizi ‘The Sun of Tabriz’ was the spiritual guide, inspiration and companion of Mevlana Jelaleddin Rumi. In 1244 he met Rumi, and the two mystics became spiritual friends. To Rumî, Semsi became ‘The Sun’, a spiritual light that guided him in his quest for union with the Divine. Rumî stopped teaching in the medreses (seminaries) in order to spend more time in communion with Semsi. larmed by the hold Semsi had on their master, a group of Rumî’s followers murdered the itinerant dervish in hopes of reclaiming Rumî’s loyalty to them. Plunged into despair by the murder of his friend and inspiration, Rumî withdrew into prayer and meditation, and eventually laid the groundwork for the foundation of the Mevleci order order of whirling dervishes. Semsi Tebrizi’s mosque is undistinguished. It was once used as a tekke, or dervish hall, which explains the square shape of the main hall. There is a tomb beneath the cenotaph now considered to be that of Semsi Tebrizi, but there has been no conclusive evience that the tomb belongs to Semsi—or even, in fact, that Semsi was murdered. He may have simply been driven out of Konya. We’ll probably never know.

Lunch at a local restaurant introduces us to more Konya culinary specialties, included many cooked slowly in a tandir (“tandoori,” clay pot buried in hot coals). After lunch, we drive along Mevlana Avenue, Konya’s main avenue, to reach the age-old Alaaddin Hill to visit the 1000-year-old Alaaddin Mosque, where Rumi often prayed. In its courtyard are the tombs of many of the Seljuk Turkish sultans who ruled during Rumi’s lifetime, and who consulted him for spiritual guidance.

Before leaving Konya behind, we visit the Konyanuma Panorama Museum, superbly skilled presentations helps you go through the lifetime of Rumi following the artefacts on the walls. You will also have the chance to see the fascinating miniature art exhibition traces the big history of this fascinating region on a small scale. All just like the real thing – except displayed on a 1:25 scale.

Good to know

Experience Konya’s rich spiritual and cultural heritage with guided sightseeing and lunch at a local restaurant. Modest clothing is recommended when visiting religious sites.

Plan your journey

Contact our team for dates, availability and a personalised quote.

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