Rest of Istanbul: Byzantine Heritage, Ottoman Grandeur, European Elegance



Tour code: IB-TR-109

Duration: 1 day

From €136.00 / person

Starting point: İstanbul

Languages: English

Overview

Discover Istanbul’s extraordinary cultural heritage on an exclusive private sightseeing tour. Explore ancient archaeological treasures, magnificent Byzantine mosaics, historic city walls, and the remarkable St. Stephen Iron Church. Experience the imperial elegance of Dolmabahçe Palace, admire panoramic views from Galata Bridge, and discover the charming waterfront neighborhood of Ortaköy. An unforgettable journey through Istanbul’s history, architecture, and multicultural identity.

Your itinerary

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Discover the hidden layers of Istanbul beyond the historic peninsula, extraordinary contrasts of Byzantine heritage, Ottoman grandeur, European elegance come together. Our private sightseeing excursion with a professional licensed guide and exclusive minivan, combining historical landmarks, cultural discoveries, scenic viewpoints, and authentic neighbourhood experiences.

Our Rest of Istanbul tour invites you to explore fascinating destinations, uncovering the stories, architecture, and cultural treasures that have shaped Istanbul through the centuries. Step into the fascinating world of ancient civilizations at one of Turkey’s most important museum complexes. Home to an extraordinary collection of archaeological treasures, the Archaeology Museum bring together the artistic, cultural, and historical heritage of empires that once flourished across Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and the wider Mediterranean. Uncover one of Istanbul's most remarkable Byzantine artistic treasures at Kariye, historically known as the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora. Admire the intricate religious scenes depicting the lives of Christ and the Virgin Mary, celebrated for their expressive details, vivid colours, religious art, and remarkable artistic and cultural sophistication of Constantinople.

Travel back in time along the formidable fortifications that once protected Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire. City Walls, initially built to protect the city againist attack from both sea and land, represent one of the most impressive defensive systems of the ancient and medieval world. Ultimately fell from sheer force of Ottoman forces on 29 May 1453 after a 6-week siege. Witnessed centuries of sieges, battles, and imperial transformations offer a fascinating perspective on Istanbul's extraordinary role in shaping the history of Europe and Asia. Brief look at St. Stephen Church, the only church in the world constructed entirely of iron and steel, and Feshane where military uniforms and world famous Fez (flat-topped conical red hat with a black tassel on top) was produced. Enroute to Dolmabahce stop by Galata Bridge in the medieval Genoese neighbourhood, learn more about famous artists Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo and their design ideas for Constantinople while enjoying picturesque views of the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus inspired by multicultural past and contemporary urban life.

Discover the magnificent elegance of Dolmabahce Palace, one of the most impressive architectural masterpieces of the Ottoman Empire. Built in the 19th century along the European shores of the Bosphorus and holds a special place in modern Turkish history as the residence where Mustafa Kemal Ataturk passed away in 1938. Explore its lavish ceremonial halls, crystal chandeliers, ornate interiors, and beautifully decorated rooms.

Before tour’s end, experience the picturesque charm of Ortakoy, one of Istanbul's most beloved neighbourhoods with beautiful views of the Bosphorus Bridge. Stroll along the waterfront, lively square, explore the neighbourhood's cafés and artisan stalls, and admire the magnificent architecture of the Ortakoy Mosque. This vibrant district provides wonderful opportunities for photography.

Good to know

Enjoy a personalized sightseeing experience with a professional licensed tour guide and a private minivan. Comfortable walking shoes and modest clothing for religious sites are recommended.

Plan your journey

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

https://istanbluetravel.com/

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