

Full Day Byzantine & Ottoman Tour 3

Byzantine & Ottoman Relics Daily departure at 08.30 and returns at 17.00 Tour of "Sultan Ahmet Center", the heart of the "Old City" from where the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires were ruled. Hagia (St.) Sophia, one of the greatest marvels of architecture, constructed as a basilica in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian. Built in 537 by Byzantine Emperor Justinianus, St. Sophia has been the largest cathedral in the world for nearly a thousand years; it is considered the masterpiece of Byzantine architecture; after having been the Patriarchal basilica of Constantinople, it was converted into a mosque in 1453 by Sultan Mehmet II. the Conqueror and in to a museum by Atataürk in 1935. Blue Mosque, facing Hagia Sophia, famous with its blue Iznik tiles and unique with 6 minarets, built in the name of Sultan Ahmet. The last great imperial mosque of the classical period; its name comes from 20.000 marvellous blue-toned Iznik tiles decorating the interior walls. Hippodrome, center of sportive (chariot races, athletics) events and political activities of the old city. Obelisk of Theodosius, Serpentine Column, German Fountain of Wilhelm II are the monuments decorating Hippodrome. Caferaga Medresesi, of foundation for serving Turkish Culture organizes various workshops on handcrafts and music. Lunch at the Special Turkish Restaurant

Topkapi Palace, this extraordinary and secret palace was the residence of the Imperial Ottoman Sultans and the center of the Ottoman might for nearly 400 years. The building are a typical example of Ottoman architecture and the rooms exhibit rich collections of porcelains, robes, weapons, shields, armors, Ottoman miniatures, Islamic calligraphic manuscripts as well as Ottoman treasures and jewellery. (Treasury and Harem sections are not included in the program and are due to extra entry) Turkish Islamic Arts Museum, originally built 1524 as the palace of Ibrahim Pasha - Grand Vizier and brother-in-law of Sultan Soliman the Magnificent, it is now a museum presenting notable examples of Islamic calligraphy, tiles, rugs as well as ethnographic displays of various cultures in Turkey, particularly nomad groups. Grand Covered Bazaar, the largest covered market in the world, most attractive shopping center and biggest "souk" in the world with nearly 4000 shops selling antiques, jewellery, gold, carpets, leatherware and souvenirs. Tour 3 is a combination of Tour 1 & 2

Also visioned during the tour: Galata Bridge, Golden Horn, Leander's Tower, Obelisk of Theodosius-Serpentine Column, German Fountain of Wilhelm II

Closed : Monday; Turkish Islamic Arts Museum - St. Sophia -- Tuesday; Topkap1 Palace

Includes; Transportation, Guide, Museums and Entrance Fees.

Tour price: € 50.- PP