



Photo: Turkish Airlines

THANKSGIVING IN ISTANBUL THE WOMEN'S TRAVEL GROUP 2023



Nov 22-28, 2023

This tidy little trip takes you to Istanbul for Thanksgiving. Istanbul sits between Europe and Asia and everywhere you look you see an exotic and exciting mix. You will never forget Thanksgiving in Istanbul. Many direct flights make the trip smooth, ask us for air. We can connect you with our Greece trip to make your adventure longer.

WED 22 NOV - Day 1: Arrive Istanbul

(D)

Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel. In the evening meet our tour director and enjoy a welcome dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Accommodation: Levni Hotel & Spa - 6 Nights –Standard Room

<http://www.levnihotel.com/>

THU 23 NOV - Day 2: Istanbul

(B, L)

After buffet breakfast, there is a full day guided tour which includes St. Sophia, the cathedral built by Emperor Justinian in 537 (the largest church in Christendom), the Byzantine Hippodrome with its various monuments including a 3500-year-old red granite obelisk from Egypt, erected here in 390 AD. The Ottoman Empire produced marvelous architecture and you'll see two of its finest works: Topkapi Palace, home of the sultans, and the famed Blue Mosque of Sultan Ahmet I. Our Thanksgiving lunch will be at world famous Sultanahmet Koftecisi Restaurant in the old souk. Afterwards we venture into the labyrinthine Grand Bazaar. Transfer back to our hotel for overnight.

FRI 24 NOV - Day 3: Istanbul

(B,L)

After breakfast, visit stunning Kariye museum with some of the world's greatest mosaics. We drive to Eminönü for the aromatic Spice Bazaar, where smells of cinnamon, cloves and thyme, rise from hundreds of muslin bags at every store-front. Then have a Bosphorus Cruise, the waterway separating Europe and Asia, see marble palaces, ancient wooden villas of Ottoman architecture and modern residential luxurious apartments. Finally visit Dolmabahce Palace, most luxurious architecture from the Ottoman era. Lunch at a local restaurant.

Optional visit: an opportunity to use the former Royal hamman in the afternoon or early evening. We went on a prior trip, were scrubbed soaped and bathed on marble beds. We then enjoyed tea and Turkish snacks. All agreed it was a fantastic experience. Transfer hotel price of hamman includes transfers;

SAT 25 NOV - Day 4: Istanbul

(B,L)



After buffet breakfast continue to visit both the old and new in modern Istanbul. Begin with a stroll through exciting Taksim, the heart of modern Istanbul. Here see young and hip, artists and businessmen rubbing shoulders. Next stop is Beyoglu. This area is enjoying a cultural and architectural revival thriving with fashion, art, restaurants and night clubs. Zig-zag across the Istiklal Caddesi (the Grande Rue) a popular pedestrian boulevard known as Paris of the east. Explore back streets and see a variety of funky cafes before stopping to enjoy a traditional Turkish coffee. Then we see Galatasaray Square, site of the first European inspired High School and Cicek Pasaji (Flower Passage), a shrine to the Turks' love of leisurely dining. Stop by Balik Bazaar - a local market specializing in seafood and perhaps try some fresh

battered and fried mussels. End at the Galata Tower with its wonderful views of Istanbul. Finish with a ride on the Tunell funicular, enjoy a stroll through Karakoy and catch a tram back to Sultanahmet.

SUN 26 NOV - Day 5: Istanbul

(B)

Cisterns Tour in morning. This is Istanbul's newest huge attraction. The cisterns carried millions of gallons of water to the growing city from the 4th century. You will be awe struck at their size and beauty and how buildings in 300's created the aqueducts and cisterns. PM at leisure.

MON 27 NOV – Day 6 Istanbul (B,D)

Day at leisure. Istanbul offers one of the best shopping anywhere. Ask us if you wish an optional shopping tour. Jewelry, carpets, ceramics, fabulous clothing, leather goods, gems. We do not usually offer shopping but Istanbul is the exception. Tonight farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

TUE 28 NOV - Day 7: Depart Istanbul: (B)

Transfer to the airport for our homebound flights.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS:

Minimum 8 travelers \$1864

Single Supplement +\$635 per person

Deposit \$700

Use of hammam. Optional

Traditional body scrubbing in the warmest quarter.
Relaxing bubble wash ritual on the warm marble stone.
2-4 travellers
\$133 per person with transfers

AIRFARE UPON REQUEST

Inclusions:-

- ✓ Accommodation on BB, 6 nights in Istanbul.
- ✓ 5 Breakfast, 3 Lunches & 2 Dinners. (house-wine during dinner – dinner menu a la carte)
- ✓ Entrance fees and Luggage handling
- ✓ Local taxes and service charges
- ✓ Meals are indicated by code letters((B)Breakfast (L)Lunch,(D)Dinner)
- ✓ Bottled water during lunches and dinners
- ✓ Bottled water during sightseeing tours
- ✓ A/C vehicle throughout the sightseeing tours.
- ✓ English speaking female guide, fully guided, same guide who also stays with the guests during Dinners.

Not included:

- Visa fees
- Personal expenses
- Customary tips to your guide and driver
- Flights
- Hammam visit * Personal Expenses *Customary tips
- Others not mentioned in the program

Terms and Conditions are also linked to your Booking Form

COVID-19 and your personal responsibility: We require our guests to be vaccinated. Visitors must be familiar with country requirements and are expected to adhere to all rules. Requirements will differ from country to country and may also change over time. It is therefore important that all travelers are secure in their understanding of what will be expected of them before departing their home and upon entering a foreign destination. Please ask us about the specific entry requirements. Furthermore, understand that COVID-19 may be present anywhere. The World Health Organization and medical experts have stated that older citizens, as well as guests with existing health challenges, are exposed to heightened risks. It is important that travelers take personal responsibility for their well-being and strictly follow instructions, whether given verbally or through public announcements and signage. When traveling with us you agree to accept all risks associated with exposure to COVID-19. We encourage adherence to hygiene and distancing rules and sincerely wish that all of our guests travel safe and remain healthy.

Airfares: Based on current fares and subject to change without notice UNTIL TICKETED. Airfares are based on the current lowest fare, and subject to availability of the applicable class of service. It may be necessary to re-quote a fare at the time of booking, depending on availability. At the time of final payment, please check for any applicable increase in taxes and fuel surcharges. Airfares are subject to different rules and cancellation fees. Some airfares may be non-refundable once ticketed. Details will be provided on request. **Please note that effective Jun 01 2019 it is**

mandatory to provide the passenger contact details - Tel # & Email - to the airline, in order that they may provide updates directly to the passenger regarding schedule changes, flight delays, or cancellations. The passenger has the right, not to provide the contact details, but the travel agency issuing the ticket requires notification of such refusal in writing, which will be added to the ticketing record.

****Insurance:** We strongly recommend Travel Insurance. A suggested policy is sent with your confirmation.

Inoculations: We recommend that you contact Passport Health at 1-888-499 7277 or www.passporthealthusa.com for questions regarding country-specific health counseling.

Tour Reservations: We require a deposit of \$700.00 per person, of which \$350 is non-refundable. This amount will be adjusted with the balance due 90 days prior to departure.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received 90 days to 60 days prior to departure: 50% non-refundable. Within 60 days of departure 100% of the tour price is nonrefundable. We strongly advise you purchase travel insurance to safeguard your travel investments. If you change to a single from a share and we cannot replace your share, we will bill you \$400 to protect your intended share. Please refer to SITA's website for other applicable details. Your deposit for the tour is your acceptance of these Terms and Conditions. The Women's Travel Group Terms & Conditions will take precedence when there appears a conflict with the general Terms & Conditions set forth by SITA World Tours.

Tour documents: Final tour documents including day-by-day itinerary, hotel listing, air tickets & vouchers are sent between 20-10 days prior to departure.