



THANKSGIVING IN ISTANBUL

Nov 22-26 + extension to continue and see more of this global and exotic city.

This tidy little trip takes you from our Greece trip with Santorini to Istanbul for Thanksgiving. The trip can also be done as a stand alone, with different transfer arrangements. It can also be extended to a full week in Istanbul.

Photos come from the hotel's official site.

Nov 22 Upon arrival from Greece, we will be transferred to our hotel . Dinner at our hotel. (D)

Accommodation: **LEVNI HOTEL & SPA** (Standard Room) Our hotel is rated 4.5 stars on most review sites. The hotel is situated in the heart of the old town of Istanbul close to restaurants and shopping. All rooms have a safe box (can be used for notebook or laptop), desk, hair dryer, make up mirror, robes and slippers, flat screen TV, minibar, a/c and free wifi. The spa is traditionally Turkish. You need to try it!



Nov 23 After buffet breakfast in our hotel, there is a full day guided tour which includes St. Sophia, the cathedral built by Emperor Justinian in 537, which was 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. Lunch in a local restaurant today. After these vis-

its, we'll venture into the labyrinthine Grand Bazaar. Transfer back to our hotel for overnight. (B,L)

Nov 24 After buffet breakfast we visit stunning Kariye museum then drive to Eminönü to visit the aromatic Spice Bazaar, where the smells of cinnamon, cloves and thyme, rise from hundreds of colorful muslin bags at every store-front. Then we will have a Bosphorus Cruise, the waterway separating the two continents, Europe and Asia, with a possibility to take photographs of marble palaces, ancient wooden villas of Ottoman architecture new to modern residential and luxurious apartments. Finally you will visit Dolmabahce palace which is the most luxurious architecture from Ottoman era. Our Thanksgiving lunch will be at world famous Sultanahmet Koftecisi Restaurant in the souk.

Optional visit: an opportunity to use the former Royal hamman in the afternoon or early evening. We did went on a prior trip, were soaped and bathed on marble beds, and all agreed it was fantastic experience. Transfer back to our hotel after the tour; price of hamman will include transfers; please ask. (B, Thanksgiving L)

Nov 25 After buffet breakfast we continue to tour. Get to know both the old and new in Modern Istanbul. Begin with a stroll through exciting Taksim, the heart of modern Istanbul. Here you will 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 the back streets and see a variety of funky cafes before stopping to enjoy a traditional Turkish coffee and have our fortune told. Then we will 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 up 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. Tonight dinner will be at our hotel(B,D)

Nov 26 We will be transferred to the airport for flights abroad or continue on with more sightseeing in Istanbul. (B) Rooms are available until noon.

Nov 27 onwards, we can easily extend your trip.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS ON SHARING BASIS

\$1680 We recommend deluxe rooms which are priced here. If you wish a smaller hotel room suitable for one person only, it is estimated at \$100 less in a share.

4 Paying Pax \$1315.

6+ Paying Pax \$1215

Single Supplement \$400 Smaller room single: \$300

Price Includes:

- Accommodations for 4 nights in a Deluxe Room
- 4 Breakfast, 2 Lunches & 2 Dinners.
- Bottled water during lunches and dinners
- Bottled water during sightseeing tours
- A/C private vehicle with driver throughout the sightseeing based on small group. If larger group vehicle cost may change slightly.
- Entrance fees and Luggage handling at hotel
- Local taxes and service charges
- English speaking female guide during sightseeing Tours