

Best of Istanbul - 5 days

TR-04

This 5-day tour is the perfect introduction to this fascinating city, allowing you to tour its sights at an unhurried pace. Before it became Istanbul, this was Constantinople, and before that, Byzantium. Straddling Europe and Asia, this captivating city is one of the most exciting city break destinations in the world, at once exotic and familiar. Its long history, rich cultural heritage and extraordinary physical geography will not disappoint.

DEPARTURE DATES:

15.02.2025; 22.02.2025; 01.03.2025; 08.03.2025; 15.03.2025; 22.03.2025; 29.03.2025; 05.04.2025; 12.04.2025; 19.04.2025; 26.04.2025; 03.05.2025; 10.05.2025; 17.05.2025; 24.05.2025; 31.05.2025; 07.06.2025; 14.06.2025; 21.06.2025; 28.06.2025; 05.07.2025; 12.07.2025; 19.07.2025; 26.07.2025; 02.08.2025; 09.08.2025; 16.08.2025; 23.08.2025; 30.08.2025; 06.09.2025; 13.09.2025; 20.09.2025; 27.09.2025; 04.10.2025; 11.10.2025; 18.10.2025; 25.10.2025; 01.11.2025; 08.11.2025; 15.11.2025; 22.11.2025; 29.11.2025; 06.12.2025; 13.12.2025; 20.12.2025.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Istanbul

Today you'll board your flight bound for Istanbul. On arrival at the city's Ataturk Airport, you'll be met and, once immigration formalities have been completed, transfer to your centrally located hotel. Overnight in Istanbul.

Day 2 - Istanbul

It's time to get acquainted with this fascinating city. After breakfast at the hotel, you'll cross the Bosphorus to take a look at the Maiden Tower. This mediaeval gem perches on a rocky islet beside Istanbul's Üsküdar neighbourhood and featured in the Bond movie "The World is Not Enough". We'll move on to the Kadıköy district, still on the Asian side of the city, for lunch. The views across the Sea of Marmara toward Sultanahmet are breathtaking. After lunch there'll be a little free time to enable you to explore on foot or by vintage tram to and from Moda. We recommend you call in at confectioners Hacı Bekir Efendi; they've been making Turkish Delight here since 1777. Later, return to the European part of the city by ferry. Overnight in Istanbul. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 3 - Istanbul

The Süleymaniye Mosque is one of the largest mosques in Istanbul, built by Süleyman the Magnificent during his 16th century reign. Today, this is where we begin our sightseeing programme before enjoying the ride by cable car up the hill to the Pierre Loti café. Named after a French writer, the views over the Golden Horn from its shady terrace are a real treat. Next, you'll visit the Eyüp Sultan Mosque and Tomb. Learn why it means so much to the faithful as the city's oldest mosque and final resting place of Abu Ayyub al-Ansari, the right-hand man of the Prophet Muḥammad. After lunch, it's time to discover a more modern side to Istanbul. We'll concentrate on the area once called Pera, around Taksim Square and Istiklal Street, one of the liveliest in the city and known for its many shops, restaurants and bars. Don't miss the ornate architecture of the Çiçek Pasajı while you're there. Overnight in Istanbul. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 4 - Istanbul

On the itinerary today is the beautiful Topkapi Palace, which occupies a commanding spot on the promontory overlooking the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus. Once, this sprawling palace was home to the Ottoman Sultans. We'll allow plenty of time to do justice to the harem's quarters, kitchen and gardens before moving on to nearby Hagia Sophia. In its long history, this imposing building has been a church, a mosque and a museum. Our third stop is equally magnificent: the stunning Blue Mosque, famed for the blue Iznik tiles which lend the place its name. Afterwards, we will stroll through Sultanahmet Square and have lunch at a nearby restaurant; if there's time, you could squeeze in a visit to the atmospheric Basilica Cistern. The afternoon is devoted to the Grand Bazaar. Shop for handicrafts and more at this historic covered market. Overnight in Istanbul. (Breakfast, lunch)

Day 5 - Istanbul

Today's your final day in Istanbul. Before you depart, pay a visit to the Egyptian Bazaar, also referred to as the Spice Market, which has delighted foodies since it opened in the 17th century. It's conveniently located close to

the Bosphorus, and you'll end your trip taking a relaxing cruise up this iconic waterway. It's flanked by palaces and gardens - highlights include the gorgeous Dolmabahçe Palace and the Ciragan Palace, now the Kempinski Hotel. It's the perfect end to your trip. Disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home. (Breakfast)

TOUR INCLUSIONS AND OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Included

[International flights](#)
[Accommodation](#)
[Guided tours & cultural programme](#)
[English - speaking guides](#)
[Half board meals](#)
[Ground transportation](#)
[Airport transfers](#)

Not included

[Personal travel insurance](#)
[Optional excursions](#)

Practical information

[About Best of Caucasus company](#)
[Contact our travel consultants](#)

AVAILABLE PACKAGES

COMFORT - 3* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
15/02/2025 - 19/02/2025	£895	£1295	£245
22/02/2025 - 26/02/2025	£895	£1295	£245
01/03/2025 - 05/03/2025	£895	£1295	£245
08/03/2025 - 12/03/2025	£895	£1295	£245
15/03/2025 - 19/03/2025	£895	£1295	£245
22/03/2025 - 26/03/2025	£895	£1295	£245
29/03/2025 - 02/04/2025	£895	£1295	£245
05/04/2025 - 09/04/2025	£895	£1295	£245
12/04/2025 - 16/04/2025	£895	£1295	£245
19/04/2025 - 23/04/2025	£895	£1295	£245
26/04/2025 - 30/04/2025	£895	£1295	£245
03/05/2025 - 07/05/2025	£895	£1295	£245
10/05/2025 - 14/05/2025	£895	£1295	£245
17/05/2025 - 21/05/2025	£895	£1295	£245
24/05/2025 - 28/05/2025	£895	£1295	£245
31/05/2025 - 04/06/2025	£895	£1295	£245
07/06/2025 - 11/06/2025	£895	£1295	£245
14/06/2025 - 18/06/2025	£895	£1295	£245
21/06/2025 - 25/06/2025	£895	£1295	£245
28/06/2025 - 02/07/2025	£895	£1295	£245
05/07/2025 - 09/07/2025	£895	£1295	£245
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19/07/2025 - 23/07/2025	£895	£1295	£245
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02/08/2025 - 06/08/2025	£895	£1295	£245
09/08/2025 - 13/08/2025	£895	£1295	£245
16/08/2025 - 20/08/2025	£895	£1295	£245
23/08/2025 - 27/08/2025	£895	£1295	£245
30/08/2025 - 03/09/2025	£895	£1295	£245
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13/12/2025 - 17/12/2025	£895	£1295	£245
20/12/2025 - 24/12/2025	£895	£1295	£245

PREMIUM - 4* PACKAGE

Dates	Excl. flights	Incl. flights*	Single suppl.
15/02/2025 - 19/02/2025	£995	£1395	£345
22/02/2025 - 26/02/2025	£995	£1395	£345
01/03/2025 - 05/03/2025	£995	£1395	£345
08/03/2025 - 12/03/2025	£995	£1395	£345
15/03/2025 - 19/03/2025	£995	£1395	£345
22/03/2025 - 26/03/2025	£995	£1395	£345
29/03/2025 - 02/04/2025	£995	£1395	£345
05/04/2025 - 09/04/2025	£995	£1395	£345
12/04/2025 - 16/04/2025	£995	£1395	£345
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31/05/2025 - 04/06/2025	£995	£1395	£345
07/06/2025 - 11/06/2025	£995	£1395	£345
14/06/2025 - 18/06/2025	£995	£1395	£345
21/06/2025 - 25/06/2025	£995	£1395	£345
28/06/2025 - 02/07/2025	£995	£1395	£345
05/07/2025 - 09/07/2025	£995	£1395	£345
12/07/2025 - 16/07/2025	£995	£1395	£345
19/07/2025 - 23/07/2025	£995	£1395	£345
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27/09/2025 - 01/10/2025	£995	£1395	£345
04/10/2025 - 08/10/2025	£995	£1395	£345
11/10/2025 - 15/10/2025	£995	£1395	£345
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20/12/2025 - 24/12/2025	£995	£1395	£345

ALTERNATIVE TOURS AND TAILOR-MADE ARRANGEMENTS

In addition to organized group tours, we also offer individual trips. This could be an entirely separate holiday arrangement or an extension to a regular "Best of Caucasus" trip. Whether you would like to travel independently, or just with the group of your friends or colleagues, we can help to realise your holiday plans. Depending on your preference for either comfort or budget, we can help you to design the ideal itinerary and provide the optimal value-for-money quote. Please [contact us for a quote](#).

Based on your chosen tour we believe you might be interested in alternative trips listed below:

- > [Short Break in Istanbul - 3 days \(TR-01\)](#), Price from £445, 3 days
- > [Short Break in Istanbul with a Visit to Cappadocia - 6 days \(TR-02\)](#), Price from £1,095, 6 days
- > [Classical Turkey Tour: Istanbul, Cappadocia, Ephesus, Pamukkale, Izmir - 8 days \(TR-03\)](#), Price from £2,995, 8 days
- > [Best of Turkey Tour - 13 days \(TR-05\)](#), Price from £3,495, 13 days
- > [Highlights of Armenia - 5 days \(AM-01\)](#), Price from £995, 5 days
- > [Best of Armenia and Georgia - 12 days \(CT-05\)](#), Price from £2,195, 12 days
- > [Great Georgian Discovery - 11 days \(GE-03\)](#), Price from £1,995, 11 days

HOW TO BOOK

Step 1 - Choose Your Holiday & Departure Dates

It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your interests, capabilities and experience. All our staff has first hand experience of a range of Best of Caucasus holidays and will be happy to talk to you about your chosen trip, enabling you to assess its suitability. We also recommend that you read the descriptions of the relevant region, general information about our services, booking conditions, and trip dossiers carefully. Once you know what tour is right for you, as well as your departure dates, you can start your booking.

Step 2 - Complete the Booking Form

Online: log on to www.best-of-caucasus.co.uk and open the tour you wish to book and click "Book now". To provide you with a more personalised and relevant experience in all your contact with Best of Caucasus, when you book online we ask you to register on our system. Once registered you can retrieve your bookings, update newsletter subscriptions, passenger and emergency contact details, submit special dietary requests, view invoices and receipts, download trip documents.

Email: alternatively, you can book your tour per email - info@best-of-caucasus.co.uk, or

Phone: call us on **+44 (0)20 30 51 76 40**

When booking by email or over the phone please confirm your personal details (full name and address), chosen tour, departure date, package type (hotel category), and available upgrades.

Step 3 - Confirmation of your booking

On receipt of your booking form, we will make any necessary reservations for you and send you confirmation invoice, including the flight details, and additional information about your destination: advice on visas, vaccinations and what to take. The invoice will also show you the exact due date of the payment.

Step 4 - Payment

Please note, if your departure date is more than 56 days you will need to pay the deposit, which should cover the full cost of the flight (if applicable), plus 10% of the land-only arrangements (minimum £100) per person towards your tour. The outstanding payment must be made 56 days prior to departure. If you book less than 56 days before departure, full payment must be made at the time of your booking. You can make your payment by bank transfer, debit or credit card, cheque, bankers draft or postal order. You will find all relevant payment details in your invoice.

