



TURKEY

A Culinary & Cultural Tour for Foodies - 11 days

Including;

Istanbul, Cappadocia, Alaçatı, Bodrum

**Architecture, Bazaars, Carpets, Ceramics, Cuisine,
Culture, Markets, Textiles, Vineyards and much, more.**

12th – 22nd October 2014



Overview:

Turkey straddles both Europe and Asia and is steeped in history with layers upon layers of peoples and cultures. This tour begins in the vibrant city of Istanbul with a stunning skyline of domes and minarets; Ottoman palaces, beautiful mosques, Byzantine churches, hamams and bazaars. Experience the variety of culture, entertainment & the rush of shopping in bazaars!! Join us on our small group tour and share our passion in our journey..

Places Visited:	Istanbul, Cappadocia, Alaçatı Bodrum & Istanbul
Commences in Istanbul:	Sunday 12 th October 2014
Concludes in Istanbul:	Wednesday 22 nd October 2014
Tour Style:	Deluxe Small Group Tour (6 - 14)
Length:	11 days / 10 nights
Accommodation:	Hotels as noted
Transportation:	Luxury chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicles
Meals:	Breakfasts; 9: Lunches; 10: Dinners; 5:
Leaders:	Professional food & wine specialists
Tour Grading:	Moderate - Challenging: suitable for travellers with an average fitness and mobility

Boutique Tours & Travel offers comprehensive travel packages with just about everything on land included in one price. Accommodation, most meals, transfers, baggage handling, all major sightseeing and numerous cultural events are also included. Before you travel, you may have questions about what to expect while on your tour; for further information about this tour, or assistance in booking this tour please don't hesitate to contact us.

Tour Highlights:

- Be overwhelmed by all the cosmopolitan delights of Istanbul
- Explore the Ottoman treasures in this magnificent city
- Enjoy delicious tastings of Turkish delicacies at bazaars & markets
- Shop for clothing, jewellery, textiles etc
- Cruise the Bosphorus that divides Europe & Asia & admire its glorious shoreline views of beautiful mosques, lavish Palaces and decadent villas
- Discover Dolmabahce Palace, one of the world's most opulent palaces
- Wonder at the amazing geological formations of 'fairy chimneys' in Cappadocia
- Explore underground cities in Cappadocia
- Take a balloon ride at sunrise over the amazing awe inspiring landscape
- Learn all about carpets and ceramics
- Explore the ancient city of Ephesus; the Greco-Roman ruins and large ancient cities, one of the world's best preserved archaeological sites on the Aegean Sea
- Participate in hands-on home cooking classes in Istanbul, Cappadocia & Bodrum
- Wine tasting in a family operated cave winery in Cappadocia
- Enjoy sipping delicious boutique wine with a local family over lunch in Bodrum
- Visit an original oil production museum
- Cruise around the bay in a traditional wooden gullet with a delicious lunch included .
- Enjoy a fabulous variety of delicious cuisine and regional delicacies and fine dining experiences



ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday 12th October 2014: Istanbul: (D)

Arrive at Istanbul, Atatürk International Airport, where you will be met by our representative and taken to your hotel.

Istanbul, the only city in the world built on two continents, provides a unique link between East and West. The guardian of the treasures of three great empires, Napoleon once said that if the world were a single state then its capital would be Constantinople.

Turkey is an extraordinary country with a myriad of dazzling highlights, hidden gems and full of mystical charm. The mere mention of Turkey conjures up tantalizing visions of stunning skylines of domes and minarets, sultans, harems and hamam, Ottoman palaces, bazaars, belly-dancers and spectacular Roman ruins.

You may wish to arrive a day earlier. Please contact us to arrange this.

This evening we have organized a Welcome Dinner at a private home that includes a hands-on cooking class learning to cook home-style, family recipes and taste what you have cooked. This is truly unique opportunity to experience Turkish hospitality and local home life. (dietary requirements can be noted at the time of booking)

Day 2: Monday 13th October 2014: Istanbul: (B/L)

Today you will visit the Blue Mosque, a famous 17th century mosque that dominates the Istanbul skyline, then visit the St. Saviour in Chora Museum, known for its magnificent mosaics and frescoes dating from the 11th to the 14th centuries. "Chora" means outside the walls or in the countryside, which the church certainly was when it was built originally; however, it was enclosed within Istanbul's walls no later than 413 AD and the church you see today was actually built in the 11th century. For four hundred years it was a mosque and now it is a museum; virtually all of the famous mosaics and (less renowned but just as striking) mural paintings date from about 1320, having been restored between 1948 and 1959 under the auspices of the Byzantine Society of America.

We will then proceed to our lunch in charming restaurant, whose dishes reflect the eclectic nature of the Turco-Ottoman neighbourhood. The restaurant specializes in fine Ottoman court cuisine. Extensive research was undertaken prior to the opening of the restaurant from kitchen registries deep in the archives of Topkapı and Dolmabahçe Palaces, relevant documentation was found in Istanbul's Beyazıt and Millet libraries.

After lunch you will take a private cruise along the Bosphorus, the winding strait that separates Europe from Asia. En route enjoy the view of the old yalis (wooden houses on the water) and the 15th century Fortress of Rumelihisar. Dinner on your own.

Day 3: Tuesday 14th October 2014: Istanbul: (B/L/D)

This morning you will be picked up, early and taken on a short ferry ride to the European side of Istanbul. You will stroll through the Spice Bazaar and stop at shops for tastings. The bazaar is often referred to as the "Egyptian Market" due to the fact that spices used to come to the market from India and Southeast Asia via Egypt. Despite the fact that the bazaar is becoming more touristy, there is still plenty to discover for the "foodie." We will stop at a Spice shop for spice tasting and discover some typically Turkish delicacies. We will then take you on a tour of three of Istanbul's iconic monuments.

The Rustem Pasha Mosque, another skillful accomplishment of the architect Sinan, the Rustem Pasha Mosque was built in 1561 on the orders of Rustem Pasha, Grand Vizier and son-in-law of Suleyman the Magnificent. Exquisite Iznik tiles panel the small and superbly proportioned interior.

The Hagia Sophia, the church of the Divine Wisdom, which was a church (circa 548 AD), then a mosque and now a museum.

The Underground Cistern built by Emperor Justinian to provide water for the city of Constantinople. It is difficult to describe the beauty and uniqueness of this experience. Descending a few flights of stairs underground you will suddenly be amazed to see stately, ancient columns, small bridges, lights and to hear classical music sung by Luciano Pavarotti. The main hall is 230 x 460 feet, supported by over 400 columns and with many vaults. Truly amazing!

For lunch you will taste delicious kofte- meatballs at a specialized restaurant operating since 1920. Last, you will continue to explore ninety-two streets of the famous Grand Bazaar.

Dinner this evening will be in an old restored Sultanahmet house, serving delicious appetizers and healthy fresh fish.



Day 4: Wednesday 15th October 2014: Istanbul – Cappadocia; (B/L/D)

After breakfast we will depart to visit some specialty shops as we walk through the colorful market of Kadıköy –an open air street market, very different from the Spice Market and more in tune with the way most Istanbulers cook and eat.

Lunch will be served at an Otterman restaurant. The dishes are prepared according to the original customs and beliefs. The ingredients used in these dishes travel from South Eastern Anatolia to arrive at your plate in Istanbul: aromatic red pepper, pistachios, chickpeas, olive oil and pomegranate molasses. After lunch we will visit the Topkapı Palace the first residence of the Ottoman Sultans and in the evening head to the airport for our flight to Cappadocia.

After lunch we will visit the Topkapı Palace the first residence of the Ottoman Sultans and in the evening we transfer to the airport for our flight to Cappadocia. You will be transferred to our cave hotel upon arrival. A light dinner will be served.

DAY 5: Thursday 16th October 2014: Cappadocia: (B/L/D)

Derived from the ancient Hittite word “Katpatuka”, Cappadocia is commonly believed to mean “Land of the Beautiful Horses”, and it is a fitting tribute. These days Cappadocia is more celebrated for its lava-sculpted topography and dawn skyline dappled with hot air balloons than horses, but historically the region was renowned for its deep equine connections.

In Cappadocia we will focus on the very particular culture and foods of Anatolia.

Today we will be cooking lunch in a village home with a local family. They will show us how to make lentil patties stuffed vine leaves and manti, a traditional dish whose heritage stretches back in to the Central Asian origins of modern Turkey. You will taste what you have cooked for lunch.

After lunch we will introduce you to the lunar landscape of Cappadocia at Dervent Valley, and then head to the Zelve Open Air Museum, which is one of the earliest inhabited and latest abandoned monastic settlements of Cappadocia. Seeing the best examples of the fairy chimneys at Pasabag Fairy Chimneys Valley, we drive further to Avanos.

At Avanos, a centre of terracotta art since 2,000 BC, you will see a demonstration of pottery making in a traditional workshop, where the family has been making pottery for many generations. Then we will try our hands at it under the supervision of a master potter. This is also a great spot to shop for pottery.

Before dinner we will stop at a winery. This is the biggest and oldest winery (since 1943) in Cappadocia. We will tour the winery while tasting their local wines. The Öküzgözü- Bogazkere combinations (grapes native to Turkey) are quite promising. The family-operated winery is located underground, carved in natural rock. This natural cellar also provides excellent storage conditions for the wine.

Day 6: Friday 17th October 2014: Cappadocia – Izmir - Alaçatı: (B/L/D)

Early morning optional balloon ride - transfer to the balloon launching site to meet the balloon crew. The gentle and stable wind conditions are ideal during the first few hours of the day in Cappadocia. It is also the ideal time for photography, with splendid colours and contrasts. The deep canyons and gentle winds carry you over places that could never be reached except by balloon. After flying over Cappadocia for about one hour, you will land to a champagne celebration!

After breakfast you will continue your day with a hike in the picturesque Red Valley. Then make your way back to the famous Goreme Open Air Museum to see the best examples of Byzantine art in Cappadocia. These are found in rock-cut churches with frescoes and paintings dating from as early as the 10th century. After lunch in a local restaurant you will then explore the underground city of Kaymakli, one of the largest and deepest of Cappadocia’s many such settlements.

Then while sipping your wine you will enjoy a demonstration and explanation of Turkish carpet making techniques, symbols and different types of carpets, and get the chance to buy some of these works of art.

Later this afternoon we fly to Izmir then drive for about 1 hour to Alaçatı.

Day 7: Saturday 18th October 2014: Alaçatı: (B/L)

After a leisurely morning we will drive to a fruit and vegetable farmers market where all produce is freshly picked in the early morning. Then we will sit down and enjoy a family style late lunch at a local’s home, accompanied by a selection of award winning local wines while enjoying the wonderful views of the region.

After lunch we will stop at some vineyards for wine tasting. These vineyards are a family owned and operated boutique winery whose owners, a husband and wife team, oversee the whole vine growing and winemaking processes from the planting of the vines to bottling. The vineyards are located near the Aegean coast, where they have been practicing viticulture over centuries. Following this wonderful culinary experience we return to the hotel.

Enjoy the rest of the day to relax or explore the cobblestoned streets of this quaint seaside resort, winding between the stone buildings, and settle down in one of the village square’s coffee houses to chill out. Dinner on your own.



Day 8: Sunday 19th October 2014: Alaçatı – Ephesus – Bodrum: (B/L/D)

After an early breakfast we will proceed to visit the ancient archaeological ruins of Ephesus, featuring the Temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of ancient world.

We will then proceed to Kusadası for lunch at one of the best restaurants in the area. After having a delectable feast, we will take you around the garden so you will see how they dry their vegetables under the sun, how they make tomato, pepper paste, pomegranate molasses and the making of many different organic jams. We will then tour a museum where you will see how mankind first discovered that olives were edible and how olive oil was used from the beginning of time until today. We continue our drive and end our day with a light dinner in Bodrum.

Day 9: Monday 20th October 2014: Bodrum: (B/L)

Today after a delicious homemade breakfast with freshly baked bread, olives, honey, kaymak (rich clotted cream) jams, cheeses (cow and goat) eggs and sausages in a village nearby. Then we will go around the Bays on a typical Turkish wooden yacht.

Traditional wooden yachts first built in Bodrum for fishing and sponge hunting, but with the rise of the Blue Cruise concept, they became spacious motor- sailing yachts for people to enjoy a cruise in the untouched bays around the Aegean coast of Turkey. It is a perfect way to enjoy swimming in the blue waters as well as to try more of the local cuisine. After the cruise we will return to the hotel. Dinner on your own.

Day 10: Tuesday 21st October 2014: Bodrum – Istanbul: (B/L)

In the morning we will stop at a Turkish Delight manufacturer to watch a demo on Turkish Delight production. Then we will proceed to our cooking class where you will be guided through the delicious secrets of regional Aegean cookery with its accent on olive oil and fresh herbs. You will then taste what you have prepared at a sumptuous lunch.

In the afternoon we will visit the Bodrum Castle that occupies the tip of the wedge-like peninsula at the center of Bodrum and has a massive conglomeration of courtyards, turrets, galleries, and sunken gardens to admire the collections of the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, located inside the Castle. The rest of the afternoon will be free for discovering the center of Bodrum. Later we will take a late flight to Istanbul.

You may wish to continue on a journey from here. Please contact us to discuss this option

Day 11: Wednesday 22nd October 2014: Depart Istanbul: (B)

Following breakfast it is time to say farewell to acquaintances, new-found friends and Turkey.

Today is at your leisure before transferring to the airport for your onward or homebound journey.

Depending on your departure itinerary, you may have time for some last-minute sight-seeing or shopping. We are able to organise a private guide to accompany you.

Some guests may wish to stay another day or more in this amazing country; please don't hesitate to contact Boutique Tours & Travel for further travel arrangements.

OPTIONAL: Pre & Post Gourmet Culinary Days Tours;

A: Spice Odyssey at the Spice Market followed by a Cooking Class in a local chefs home (L) US\$125.00 PP

B: Dinner in a Turkish Home (D) US\$100.00 PP

C: Grand Bazaar Istanbul: (B/D) US\$100.00 PP

D: Istanbul Foodie Tour in Pera: (B) US\$100.00 PP

E: Spice Bazaar & Kadikoy Market Tour with Regional Anatolian Lunch (L) US\$145.00 PP

F: Three Markets - Two Continents: - Mondays Only US\$125.00 PP

G: Sailing to Prince's Islands – Full Day Tour: (L) US\$150.00 PP

The Price of the Optimal Tours is not included in the Tour price

<http://www.boutiquetours.com.au/turkey-istanbul-gourmet-culinary-tours>



INCLUSIONS:

- Private airport arrival and departure transfers for all guests
- Internal Airfare – Economy Class –Cappadocia – Istanbul (price and availability for upgrade available on request)
- Deluxe private air- conditioned vehicles for all our transportation
- 5 / 4 / 3 star hotel accommodation
- Daily buffet breakfast "B" "L" for Lunch and "D" for Dinner
- Private services of one or more international bilingual tour guides
- Admission fees to all activities, tours, excursions and entrance fees as noted in the program
- An exclusive information travel package
- Bottled water whilst in vehicle

Not included:

- International air or train fares
- Arrival / Departure Taxes, levies and other charges
- Passport and visa fees
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal travel insurance
- All portorage, tipping and gratuities
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses
- Additional local guides

HOTELS

CITY

Istanbul:	Wyndham Grand Istanbul Kalamus Marina Hotel
Cappadocia:	Kale Konek Hotel
Alaçati:	Alaçati Beyevi Hotel
Bodrum:	Luggs Hotel
Istanbul:	Hotel of your choice – Not included in the price.

COST	AU\$3,990.00 per person
	AU\$960.00 single supplement

A detailed pre departure and travel information booklet will be forwarded to you following final payment.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION:

BT&T requires a deposit of:

- \$1000.00 per person; cheque, money transfer or Credit Card

Visa or MasterCard fees are waived Amex is available but attracts a small commission. Contact us for details.

Payable to Boutique Tours & Travel as per 'Payment Details' – please request this.

BALANCE OF PAYMENT DUE: 1st August 2014

It is important that you read the Booking Conditions at this stage,

If you are booking within 60 days of the tour full payment is required

Please [Contact us](#) for details



Turkey - Travel Information

Accommodation:

All our hotels are very good quality four and three star boutique hotels. We highly recommend our hotels as they have excellent services and facilities. All rooms have modern facilities, private bathrooms with double & two twin beds.

Climate & Clothing:

In summer the weather in Turkey is hot and humid, the temperature in May and September the averages are about 26 - 28°C.

The general rule is to bring comfortable clothing including lightweight cottons. Comfortable walking shoes are essential as is a light waterproof jacket. We provide a detailed packing list to all our guests prior to departure.

In Turkey, the faithful are called to prayer five times a day. Be aware that when visiting a mosque, visitors must remove their shoes and show respect.

Currency & Money Matters:

The official currency is the New Turkish Lira (TRY), which was introduced on 1 January 2005, whereby six zeros were dropped from the TL and the sub-unit New Kurush was created.. ATMs are widely available in major cities and tourist areas. Travellers cheques can be exchanged at some banks and currency exchange offices, but are not as welcome as cash or credit cards.

Electricity:

The electrical current in Turkey is 220 volts AC, 50Hz. The European two-pin plug is standard.

Insurance:

You must obtain Comprehensive Travel Insurance as a condition of travelling with Boutique Tours & Travel. We recommend that you purchase insurance at the time of Booking. This is available on the front page of BT&T website.

Itinerary Changes:

Occasionally, tours cannot be operated exactly as per the published itinerary. This can be due to a number of reasons. Such changes may be advised to us at extremely short notice, and often not at all. Whenever possible you will be advised of these changes as soon as possible.

You may also wish to add to the itinerary any visits you would like to do. The itinerary is reasonable flexible so please discuss this with your guide

Language:

Turkish is the official language, but English is widely understood in the main tourist areas.

Laundry:

Just about all hotels provide a laundry service. It is not advisable to trust them with your finest silks and woollens! We suggest when travelling, to include easily washed, drip-dry clothes that will dry out in your bathroom overnight. Laundry is not always cheap in the hotels and may take 24 hrs.

Luggage:

Three words of packing advice: LIGHT, LIGHT, LIGHT!

It is best to condense your luggage into one manageable suitcase with wheels and one daypack.

All your baggage should be clearly labelled: both inside and out.

You are required to be totally responsible for your own baggage at all times. Please check the 'boot' to ensure it is loaded onto our minibus or car.

Excess baggage fees for international & domestic flights are your responsibility.

For International flights; (depending on airline)

Check with your airline. Your guide is able to assist you with this



For Domestic Flights: Please contact us asap if you wish to upgrade.

Within Turkey, passengers are allowed one piece of check-in luggage per flight and one carry-on baggage with combined total dimension not exceeding 45 inches around. Our flight will be in economy class.

Economy One piece of luggage weighing no more than 20kg.
& One piece of hand luggage weighing no more than 8 kg

And remember;

- Be vigilant at all time
- Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas
- Do not accept bags from strangers

ALWAYS keep travel documents, passport, personal necessities and valuables with you at all times. Remember NOT to pack them in your check-in luggage. Email yourself all documents and organise a copy of everything and leave them at home.

Meals:

Turkish cuisine is renowned as one of the best in the world. It draws its influences from all corners of the former Ottoman Empire, and each region has its own specialties. Turkey is self-sufficient in food production and produces enough surplus for export as well. This means that Turkish food is usually made from fresh, local ingredients and is all the tastier for it.

We include a wide variety of both menus and venues. Our hotels offer a wonderful selection at their buffet breakfasts and occasional dinners.

Medical Services & Facilities:

Our hotels have access to a doctor if required. They can also assist guests with purchasing of medicine. The international hospitals in Turkey are very good and have western trained medical and surgical specialists. Dental care is also available. Bring enough of your prescription medications so that you will not run out away from home. You may not find the same medications in Turkey

Passports & Visas:

To enter Turkey you require a passport valid for at least six months beyond the date of entry and with at least two blank pages. A visa is required for most guests. Apply Here <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>

Religion:

Although 99% of the population is Muslim, in Turkey religion is seen as strictly a private matter. In fact, Turkey is the only Islamic country which is a secular state. This is enshrined in the constitution and means that religion has no place whatsoever in the running of the country's affairs. In line with other European countries, the weekly holiday is Sunday - not the Islamic holiday of Friday - and the Gregorian calendar is used. The constitution guarantees freedom of religion and the right to worship. During the time of the Ottoman Empire, people of many different faiths lived in what is now Turkey, and since that time, this diversity has been preserved. Today there are 236 churches and 34 synagogues open for worship in Turkey.

Safety & Security:

Visitors to Turkey are often pleasantly surprised by the friendliness of the Turkish people, who will go out of their way to assist and happily spend time chatting. Hospitality is a cornerstone of Turkish culture, and Turks believe that visitors should be treated as guests of God. This attitude has survived to the 21st century and does not appear to have been diminished by mass tourism. In fact, quite the reverse, most Turks welcome the opportunity to meet foreign visitors, learn about different cultures and practice their language skills. It is usual for Turks – even the men – to greet each other by kissing on both cheeks. Turks are proud of their country and you should avoid insulting or showing disrespect for their flag.

But like any country anywhere, there are those who are of ill repute and target tourist, so please be on high alert at all times.

**Special Requests:**

Specific requests such as adjacent or connecting rooms, bedding requests, smoking or non-smoking rooms and special dietary needs or any other arrangement should be advised at time of booking. Please note that every effort will be made to secure your special request; however, they cannot always be guaranteed.

Time Zone:

Turkey standard time is GMT +2 (GMT +3 from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October)

Transport:

We generally use modern deluxe minibuses for tours. We also walk and catch local transport where and when it's suitable.

Turkish Baths - Hamams:

Cleanliness has always been a priority in both Turkish and Islamic society, There have been hamam or public bath houses in Turkey since medieval times. The tradition reached its height during Ottoman times, when it became the social focus for women, for many of whom it provided a rare opportunity to leave their own home and see their friends. Bathing would become a social occasion, accompanied by a picnic, and, it is said, that it provided the ideal opportunity for mothers to shortlist potential brides for their sons. Even today there are separate baths for men or women, or where a town has only one hamam, different times of day or days of the week are allocated to men and women. The only exception to this is the baths open to tourists in beach resorts, where it is not uncommon to have mixed bathing and even to be massaged by someone of the opposite sex, which would never happen in a traditional bath.

Turkish Delights:

One of Turkey's most famous exports, lokum or Turkish delight as we know it, comes in many flavours and not only the rose, lemon and pistachio varieties which are common elsewhere. It is often served with Turkish coffee at the end of a meal.

Water & Beverages:

Our hotels offer bottled water and bottled water is provided throughout the days when transferring between cities. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the cost of this tour.