

# Experience Istanbul

Seeing the beauty of the Bosphorus with different eyes

5 days

08.05.2024-12.05.2024

6-15

travellers

from/to

Luxemburg,

other airports on request

Greek city foundation, seat of government under Emperor Constantine, centre of power of the Ottoman Empire, cultural and economic heart of Turkey: Istanbul proudly looks back on its unique history and its development into the modern megacity of modern times. On this tour, you will experience the Bosphorus metropolis in all its facets. You will move through the old and new history on foot, by ferry and tram, giving you a completely different view of the city. The daily walking distances (including evening strolls to the restaurants) are around 4-8 kilometres. Your stylish \*\*\*\*\* boutique hotel is located in the trendy Karaköy district and is therefore an ideal starting point for daily excursions and sightseeing.



Expérience  
culture









## Authentic & sustainable

- Small group (maximum 15 travellers)
- CO2 compensation for flights and land-based services (722 kg per traveller) via Atmosfair
- Stylish boutique hotel (with sustainability guidelines) in an ideal location
- Sightseeing on foot (daily walking distances 5-11 kilometres) and by public transport
- Bosphorus trip with the public ferry boat
- Dinners in selected restaurants for an authentic taste of Turkish cuisine



# Itinerary

 breakfast
  lunch
  lunchbox / picnic
  dinner
  tasting
  accommodation

## Day 1

Flight to Istanbul



At 11:20 a.m. you fly with Turkish Airlines from Luxembourg to Istanbul (arrival at 2.35 p.m., flight duration approx. 3.5 hours). Your Turkish tour guide awaits you with a warm "Merhaba". Transfer to the hotel (private bus/minibus) and check-in. After a short refreshment break, you will go to the nearby **restaurant** together and get in the mood for the trip over **dinner** with local specialities.

*Walking distance (without airport): approx. 1,5 km*

Overnight stay in boutique hotel 10Karaköy\*\*\*\*\* in Istanbul



## Day 2

Sultanahmet



Walk across the **Galata Bridge** and the Golden Horn to Sultanahmet Square. On the way is the **old Sirkeci railway station**, the terminus of the legendary Orient Express in the 19th and 20th centuries. At the **Hippodrome** in Sultanahmet, imagine how the Roman Emperor Septimius Severus watched the horse races from his box. Next to the **Egyptian Obelisk**, the **Serpent Column** tells the story of the warriors who survived the Battle of Marathon. A visit to the **Sultan Ahmet Mosque (Blue Mosque)** with its blue faience, where Pope Benedict XVI prayed for religious peace, will remain in your memory for a long time. The **Hagia Sofia**, the largest building in the world 1500 years ago, is a marvellous example of how art in Constantinople once inspired Renaissance painters in Europe. At the end of your varied day, you will learn about the city's former water supply system in an **underground cistern**. Return to Karaköy by tram. In the evening, you can get to know more Turkish specialties - your tour guide will help you choose the culinary delights.

*Walking distance in total: approx. 11 km*

Overnight stay in boutique hotel 10Karaköy\*\*\*\*\*



# Der Reiseverlauf

## Day 3

Bosphorus ferry trip, Egyptian bazaar



You will walk to the ferry harbour in Eminönü, from where you will take a **leisurely ferry across the Bosphorus**, past the many magnificent buildings of Istanbul: Dolmabahce Palace, Beylerbeyi Palace, Galatasaray Island, Rumeli Fortress and Fatih Sultan Mehmet Bridge and the new Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge. In the small fishing village of Anadolu Kavağı, you will have the opportunity to enjoy fresh fish by the sea (lunch not included). If you wish, you can climb up to the former fortress and enjoy the panoramic view. After lunch, take the ferry back to the old town. The wooden villas on the Bosphorus shine in a completely different light in the afternoon sun than they do in the morning. In the **Egyptian Bazaar**, let yourself be seduced by the scents and colours of this almost 400-year-old market. In addition to Turkish honey and fragrant coffee beans, oriental flavours such as saffron, mint, ginger and cumin will enchant your nose. You taste, sniff and listen to the expert spice connoisseur, who reveals his tips for the correct use of the ingredients. This evening is yours to organise as you wish - your tour guide can recommend a good restaurant. If you like, you can do as the Istanbul locals do and stroll along Istiklal Street after dinner, taking in the many boutiques, cafés and bars.

*Walking distance in total: approx. 5 km*



Overnight stay in boutique hotel 10Karaköy\*\*\*\*\*

## Day 4

Topkapi Palace, organic market



In the **Topkapi Palace**, the residence and seat of government of the Ottoman sultans, you will immerse yourself in the world of power and intrigue; your tour includes visits to the treasury and harem. They say that carpets are woven dreams - in a boutique for Turkish handicrafts, you will gain an insight into the centuries-old Turkish art of knotting and weaving. In the afternoon, listen to the exciting stories of organic farmers at an **organic fruit and vegetable market**. Say goodbye to Istanbul over dinner at the best meat restaurant in Karaköys.

*Walking distance in total: approx. ca. 8-10 km*



Overnight stay in boutique hotel 10Karaköy\*\*\*\*\*.

## Day 5

Return to Luxembourg



There will be time for a walk before you travel to the airport later in the morning (private bus/minibus) and fly back to Luxembourg from Istanbul at 4.10 pm with Turkish Airlines (arrival at 6.30 pm).

Programme, hotel and flight times subject to change. The kilometres indicated refer to routes outside the sightseeing tours..



## Included in the tour price

- Flight with Turkish Airlines Luxembourg\* – Istanbul – Luxembourg\* (Economy, fare class group, subject to availability)
- Airport taxes and kerosene € 132.00 (as of 12/2023)
- CO<sub>2</sub> compensation for flights and land-based services via Atmosfair
- 4 nights in the boutique hotel 10Karaköy\*\*\*\*\*/Istanbul, double room classic incl. breakfast
- 2 dinners in selected restaurants
- Transfers airport-hotel-airport by private bus
- Travel by public transport and sightseeing according to programme
- Local German-speaking tour guide

*\*other airports on request*

Not included are seat reservations, tips, meals not mentioned in the itinerary, drinks, insurance, additional activities and excursions, personal expenses.



## The prices (per person)

In double / twin room 1.595 €

In single room 2.145 €

*Minimum number of six travellers, maximum number of 15 travellers*

## Further information

Entry for EU citizens with a valid passport that is valid for at least six months beyond the end of the journey. The document must be in good condition and have at least one blank page. No compulsory vaccinations are required for direct entry from Luxembourg/Germany. (as of 12/2023). Currently, all Covid-19 related restrictions have been lifted. We would like to point out that this may change depending on the pandemic situation (as of 12/2023).

For air travel, our sales prices are generally based on special and tour operator fares of the airline(s) selected for the respective trip. The space available is therefore limited and surcharges may apply.

All accommodation offers free WiFi, but network coverage is not always perfect. Please note that the hotels only offer non-smoking rooms. If some of the accommodation we have booked is unexpectedly unavailable, we will book an alternative of equal value (if possible).

You will receive further information about the trip and the destination with your travel documents.

No insurance is included in the tour price. We strongly recommend that you take out travel cancellation insurance that also covers Covid-19 as well as appropriate travel health insurance that includes Covid-19 treatment (including quarantine).

This tour is not suitable for guests with limited mobility. If this is the case, please let us know the nature of your mobility restriction before booking and clarify with us whether we can fulfil your individual needs.

Planet B is a brand of Bollig Tours. Bollig Tours is therefore named as the organiser in our [General Terms and Conditions of Travel](#).



# Die Unterkunft

## **Boutique hotel 10Karaköy\*\*\*\* / Istanbul**

This stylish hotel is housed in a neo-classical building from the 19th century. Designed by the award-winning Turkish architect Sinan Kafadar in 2014 and located in the trendy Karaköy district, not far from the Galata Bridge and the Istiklal Caddesi promenade, the 10Karaköy is the ideal starting point for daily walks and sightseeing. It is not far from the banks of the Bosphorus, the Museum of Modern Art and other art galleries as well as nearby bars, restaurants and cafés. The modern-classically furnished, approx. 17m<sup>2</sup> rooms with queen-size bed have air conditioning, flat-screen satellite TV, safe, minibar (for a fee), kettle for making tea/coffee and free WiFi. All rooms are non-smoking. Breakfast (buffet) is served in the cosy hotel restaurant on the ground floor and there is another restaurant on the top floor. In the evening, you can round off an eventful day with a relaxing drink in the hotel bar on the roof terrace.



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