



Explore Istanbul, Ephesus, and Pamukkale in 5 Days

Duration: 5 Days - 4 Nights

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Tour Itinerary

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Day-by-day plan & key activities

Day 1

Arrival in Istanbul



Arrive in Istanbul Airport in the morning, where you will be warmly welcomed and transferred to your hotel. Upon arrival, complete the check-in process and take some time to settle into your accommodations, preparing for the exciting days ahead.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure, offering the perfect opportunity to unwind after your journey. You may choose to explore the vibrant surroundings of your hotel, take a leisurely stroll through nearby streets, or simply relax and soak in the atmosphere of this incredible city. If you're feeling adventurous, consider visiting a local café, exploring a nearby bazaar, or enjoying a scenic walk along the Bosphorus.

As the evening approaches, you have the option to dine at a traditional Turkish restaurant, indulging in the rich and diverse flavors of Turkish cuisine. Whether it's savoring a succulent kebab, tasting a variety of mezes, or enjoying a warm serving of baklava, this meal promises to be a delightful introduction to Istanbul's culinary heritage. Please note that dinner is not included in the itinerary, allowing you the flexibility to choose your dining experience based on your preferences.

After an enjoyable first day, return to your hotel for a comfortable overnight stay, ready to embark on a journey through Istanbul's historical and cultural treasures in the days ahead.

Day 2

Istanbul City Tour



Begin your day with a delightful breakfast at the hotel, enjoying a spread of fresh pastries, cheeses, olives, and traditional Turkish tea. Energized for the day, set off on a journey through Istanbul's architectural and historical wonders.

Your first stop is the Hagia Sophia, an awe-inspiring masterpiece that has stood for centuries as a symbol of cultural and religious heritage. Marvel at its grand dome, intricate mosaics, and magnificent blend of Byzantine and Ottoman influences, making it one of the most extraordinary landmarks in the world.

Next, step into the Blue Mosque, renowned for its breathtaking interior adorned with over 20,000 Iznik tiles in vibrant shades of blue. As you admire its towering minarets and peaceful ambiance, take in the beauty of one of Istanbul's most iconic places of worship.

As the afternoon unfolds, journey to the historic [Topkapi Palace](#), once the lavish residence of Ottoman sultans. Explore its opulent halls, royal chambers, and the priceless treasures within its museum, offering a fascinating glimpse into the grandeur of the empire.

After soaking in history, immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the [Grand Bazaar](#), one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets. Wander through its labyrinthine alleys, bustling with colorful stalls selling handcrafted carpets, jewelry, spices, and ceramics. Whether you're shopping for souvenirs or simply enjoying the lively ambiance, this ancient marketplace is a feast for the senses.

As the evening sets in, return to your hotel for a relaxing night, reflecting on the incredible sights and experiences of the day. Rest well, as more adventures in Istanbul await!

Day 3

Ephesus Tour



Start your morning with a satisfying breakfast at the hotel, preparing for a day of travel and exploration. After your meal, proceed to Istanbul Airport for your flight to Izmir, the gateway to some of Turkey's most significant ancient landmarks. Upon landing, you'll be met by your guide and driven to the captivating ancient city of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved archaeological sites in the world.

Step back in time as you wander through the well-preserved ruins of Ephesus, marveling at its grand colonnaded streets, intricate mosaics, and towering monuments. Visit the iconic [Library of Celsus](#), a masterpiece of Roman architecture, and stand before the remains of the majestic [Temple of Artemis](#), once one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. As you explore, take in the rich history and architectural splendor of this once-thriving metropolis.

Midday, pause for a delightful lunch at a local restaurant, where you can savor authentic Turkish flavors and recharge before continuing your journey.

In the afternoon, visit the [House of the Virgin Mary](#), a serene and revered site believed to be the final resting place of the Virgin Mary. Nestled on Mount Koressos, this humble stone house has drawn pilgrims from around the world and is recognized as a sacred place by both Christians and Muslims. Experience the peaceful ambiance and spiritual significance of this historic sanctuary.

As the day winds down, transfer to your hotel in Kusadasi, a beautiful coastal town by the Aegean Sea. Settle in for a comfortable overnight stay, reflecting on a day filled with historical marvels and cultural insights, ready for more discoveries ahead.

Day 4

Pamukkale Tour



Begin your morning with a satisfying breakfast at the hotel, fueling up for an exciting journey ahead. After your meal, set out on a scenic drive to Pamukkale, a destination renowned for its stunning white travertine terraces and thermal waters, often referred to as the "Cotton Castle."

Upon arrival, delve into the rich history of the region with a visit to the [ancient city of Hierapolis](#). Walk through the well-preserved Necropolis, explore the remnants of Roman baths, and admire the grand Theatre, where echoes of ancient performances still linger. As you wander through these ruins, marvel at the legacy of civilizations past, gaining a deeper understanding of this once-thriving Greco-Roman city.

After exploring the ruins, indulge in a rejuvenating soak in Pamukkale's thermal pools, letting the mineral-rich waters refresh your body and senses. Known for their healing properties, these warm, natural springs have been cherished for centuries, offering a truly unique and relaxing experience.

For lunch, enjoy a delicious regional meal at a local restaurant, savoring the authentic flavors of the area.

In the afternoon, take time to immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of the Cotton Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stroll along the dazzling white terraces, formed by mineral deposits over thousands of years, and take in the otherworldly landscape that has drawn visitors for centuries.

As the day comes to a close, transfer to your hotel in Pamukkale for a comfortable overnight stay, reflecting on the incredible history, natural wonders, and rejuvenating experiences that have made this day unforgettable.

Day 5

Return to Istanbul



Begin your morning with a satisfying breakfast at the hotel, fueling up for an exciting journey ahead. After your meal, set out on a scenic drive to Pamukkale, a destination renowned for its stunning white travertine terraces and thermal waters, often referred to as the "Cotton Castle."

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What's Included

Inclusions

- Boutique Style Accommodation
- All Private Transportation
- Professional Tour Guide
- Local (Non-Touristy) Lunches
- Entrance Tickets/Fees

Exclusions

- Beverages
- Tips for guides, drivers, hotel staff, and service providers
- Food and drinks, unless specified
- Personal expenses

Planet Travel Advisor — This document is a travel proposal. Final details may vary based on availability and confirmation.