



Sample Istanbul 1 Day Shore Excursion Program

A Private, Historical and Cultural Shore Program of Istanbul with your personal English-speaking guide.

The following is just a suggested daily tour schedule. You will have complete control over your daily schedule and may change your plans at any time by simply telling your guide.

Day 1

Istanbul

This morning after your ship arrives in port and clears customs, your driver and guide will meet you just outside the cruise ship at **10:00 AM**.

Today, you will set out on an overview walking city tour that covers the highlights, including the most historic section of Istanbul, Sultanahmet. En route to Sultanahmet you will pass by the business district and several other important sights that your guide will point out.

In Sultanahmet you will visit the Hippodrome, which was once the central focus of Constantinople (the Byzantine name of the city). Built by the Romans in the 3rd century AD, only fragments are left of what was once a grand stadium that held 100,000 spectators for public meeting and important events, including chariot races. Here in the Hippodrome, you will also see the Egyptian Obelisk, the Serpentine Column and the Column of Constantine.

Next your guide will take you to the Blue Mosque, one of the most important temples of worship in the world. It is named for the blue Iznik tile work that decorates its interior and its dome can be seen from all over the Sultanahmet district. It was built by Mehmet Aga, the imperial architect and was very controversial due to its six minarets, which many at that time believed was sacrilegious as it rivaled the architecture of Mecca itself!

Later you will pay a visit to the famous Hagia Sophia Church. Built in the 6th century, this church influenced architecture for centuries. Its original design was created as a mirror of the heavens. Take your time exploring the vast galleries and beautiful mosaics. Given its age, the church is in remarkable condition and the interiors are full of important frescoes and mosaics depicting holy subjects.

You will also visit the dramatic and beautiful Byzantine Underground Cistern, built in the 6th century as a secure water reservoir for the city. It is one of Istanbul's most unusual tourist attractions! It was laid out in 532 under the rule of Justinian. Don't miss the columns resting on busts of Medusa's Head that are believed to be a shrine to the water nymphs!

This afternoon your guide will take you into the extraordinary Imperial residence of 25 Ottoman Sultans, Topkapi Palace. Here you will be able to step back into time as you explore 500 years of Ottoman history.

The Topkapi palace complex is regarded as a multi-ethnic construction with influences from Central Asia, Asia Minor, Persia and Mesopotamia. Within the historically short period of two centuries, the Ottomans rose from a small, feudal principality to become a major, in fact the major, world power, yet at the same time they possessed a court tradition and culture of their own that was over a thousand years old. Undoubtedly Topkapi involved a synthesis of Byzantine elements but yet it can never be completely separated from its Ottoman roots.

Today, you will also see the Harem, Library, Treasury, with its royal jewelry and gem collection, and the imperial living quarters, all surrounded by serene gardens and fountains. Also in the Treasury is the 86-carat Spoonmaker's diamond and a case containing bones said to be from the hand of St. John the Baptist.

Return you to your cruise ship at the end of the day.

Exeter Services: Full-day Car, Driver and Guide
Meals Included: None

Price: for two Guests traveling together: \$525.00 per person.

Your itinerary includes...

Accommodations

None Included.

Meals

None Included.

Services

Private, deluxe vehicle and driver at your service as described. A day with your vehicle is generally 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. English-speaking guide from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM as described. A half-day is 3.5 hours.

Transfers

All transfers to and from your cruise ship are included in the program as noted.

Guides

Hand chosen for their knowledge on local history, art & architecture. Guides are at your disposal between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM daily. Guides may assist you with restaurant reservations and purchasing of additional theater tickets at your request.

Theater

None Included.

Tickets

All museum tickets as described in the program.

Exeter International Independent Shore Programs

SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing arrangements have been made with your special interests in mind. Your drivers and guides are at your disposal for full or half-day sightseeing programs as indicated in the itinerary. Within those time and mileage guidelines, your driver and guide are at your disposal, so you are free to modify your program as you please. Should you require additional time or mileage, the costs will be quoted on request and may be paid for locally in the local currency or U.S. Dollars.

Every effort has been made to confirm that scheduled sightseeing venues will be open at the time you plan to visit them. However, individual estates, museums, gardens and other points of interest can change their hours of operation at short notice. In the event that a particular attraction is closed on the day or time of your visit, your guide will offer alternative arrangements or rearrange your sightseeing to accommodate these unexpected events.

OPTIONAL EXPENSES

Charges for extra meals, transport, sightseeing services or other optional additions to your established itinerary are your responsibility and must be paid locally in the local currency.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are not included in your tour price. Your copy of "Travel Tips" contains suggested gratuity guidelines for your consideration. Gratuities may be extended in the local currency, U.S. Dollars or Euro.

DINING WITH YOUR GUIDE

On days when dinner and lunch costs have not been included in your itinerary (or in your tour cost), you may, at your discretion, choose to invite your guide to dine with your party. You are under no obligation to do so but, if you do extend such an invitation, the guide is your guest and you will be responsible for the cost of his/her meal.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

PAYMENT

Exeter International must receive a deposit of 10% of the total program cost or \$250 per person, whichever is greater, before reservations for your independent travel program can be initiated. The balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure. *No reservations are made on your behalf until this deposit has been received.* Availability and pricing is subject to change until this deposit is received. **All deposits are nonrefundable.**

CANCELLATION

Written cancellations received less than 60 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit of tour cost

- 59-14 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
- 14 or less days prior to departure, 100% of tour cost.

REFUNDS

We regret that refunds cannot be issued for arrangements confirmed on your itinerary but unused once your tour has begun.

INSURANCE

Exeter International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect your investment. You will find insurance costs noted on your invoice and insurance coverage information in your original booking packet.

PRICES AND ARRANGEMENTS

Once an itinerary is finalized and final payment has been made, a \$100 revision fee will be charged if the itinerary is changed.

The tour price includes planning, handling and operational charges. Rates are quoted in US Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of January 2010. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Devaluation of a foreign currency will be weighed against any tariff increases imposed. Exeter International is under no obligation to give breakdown costs involved in any Travel Program.

*All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.
Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.*

Exeter International

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