

MED CRUISE & TOUR OF TURKEY



MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

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MSC Med Cruise with Turkey Tour & Flights

Duration: 25 days

Departs: 2023 & 2024

Stay: 11 nights cruise cabin, 12 nights hotels (4-star rating)

Travel style: Independent cruise & escorted coach tour with flights

Booking code: TURCR25M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

25 Days Med Cruise & Turkey Coach Tour

About the holiday

The history, culture and wonders of Turkey, Greece and Italy come to life on this exciting cruise and tour combination!

Fly to Istanbul, where you'll board impressive MSC Poesia for an exciting 11-night voyage. Spend time in the ancient capital of Athens. Discover Italian delights in Palermo on the isle of Sicily, Rome and Genoa. Before returning to Istanbul, drop anchor in Kusadasi, the port where you can join shore excursions to see the remarkable well-preserved ruins of Ephesus.

Then swap the ship for a coach. While on the escorted tour, visit Istanbul's great sights and lively bazaars. Honour ANZAC heroes at Gallipoli. Tour the 4000 year-old city of Troy and view the cascading thermal pools at Pamukkale. Enjoy time exploring the dreamlike landscapes of Cappadocia, learn about the founder of the first Turkish Republic in Ankara and much more.

Appreciate the ease of a Mediterranean cruise, the comfort of first class hotels on tour and the convenience of travelling with a group on this amazing journey!

Why you'll love this trip...

Choose your preferred cabin aboard MSC Poesia on the Mediterranean cruise

Explore Athens, Sicily, Rome, Genoa and the Turkish resort town of Kusadasi

Enjoy the comfort of 4-star accommodation throughout the escorted tour

There is the ideal balance of included activities & time to explore at your leisure

Tour Istanbul, Gallipoli, Troy, Pamukkale, Konya, Cappadocia, Ankara & more

It's great value, with international flights from Australia included!

Travel dates

2023 & 2024 - See our website for dates & the best travel deals.

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for travel at other times of the year.



Cruise & escorted tour package includes:

- **Flights** - Return economy airfares to Istanbul, Turkey
 - Fly from Australia capital cities (prices may vary)
- **Cruise** - 11 nights Mediterranean Cruise from Istanbul
 - Choice of cabin aboard MSC Poesia
 - All meals & non-chargeable entertainment on the ship
- **Tour accommodation** - 12 nights in 4- to 5-star hotels
 - 4 nights Istanbul
 - 1 night Canakkale
 - 2 nights Kusadasi
 - 1 night Pamukkale
 - 1 night Konya
 - 2 nights Cappadocia
 - 1 night Ankara
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel portorage
- Meals on tour: 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 9 dinners
- Tour sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager (days 14-25)
- Entrance fees per itinerary on tour
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

Package excludes:

Airport transfers - transfers can be pre-booked on request for a fee

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional shore excursions, tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi etc.

Cruise gratuities & tips for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by airlines, hotels, tour company, cruise line & local operators.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

Experiences on tour & special highlights:

- Discover Istanbul's extraordinary sights including the Rustem Pasha Mosque, Hippodrome and St. Sophia
- Tour the classical 4000-year-old city of Troy immortalized in Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*
- Visit Pergamum, a kingdom dating back to the 4th century, home to the Roman centre of Asclepion
- View Hierapolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famed for its sacred hot springs
- Visit the Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk, founder and first president of the Turkish Republic

Itinerary:

DAY 1 - Fly to Turkey

DAY 2 - Arrive in Istanbul, Board MSC Poesia

Arrive in Istanbul and make your own way to the cruise port to board MSC Poesia for the magnificent Mediterranean cruise.

Cruise itinerary:

Date	Port	Arrive	Depart
Day 2	Istanbul, Turkey		Embark
Day 3	Istanbul, Turkey		1:00am
Day 4	Athens (Piraeus), Greece	8:00am	6:00pm
Day 5	At Sea		
Day 6	Palermo, Sicily, Italy	8:00am	4:00pm
Day 7	Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy	9:00am	6:00pm
Day 8	Genoa, Italy	8:00am	5:00pm
Day 9	At Sea		

Date	Port	Arrive	Depart
Day 10	At Sea		
Day 11	Ephesus / Kusadasi, Turkey	9:00am	7:00pm
Day 12	At Sea		
Day 13	Istanbul, Turkey	7:00am	

DAY 13 - Istanbul

Upon disembarkation in Istanbul, make your own way to the hotel. Balance of the day is at leisure to explore this great city that's at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

DAY 14 - Istanbul

Today is free to see more of Istanbul. Your tour will begin with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manger at approximately 7:30 PM.

DAY 15 - Istanbul City Tour

Embark this morning on a tour* of Istanbul, the only city that straddles two continents. Your tour includes the Rustem Pasha Mosque, a 16th century Ottoman Mosque famous for its large quantities of Iznik tiles, which are set in a very wide variety of floral and geometric designs. Proceed to the lively Spice Market with its unforgettable aromas. Continue to the Topkapi Palace, residence of Ottoman Sultans housing the richness of 700 years. In the afternoon, visit the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum, which houses a collection of Islamic writings, tiles, and carpets as well as various cultural displays that provide insight into Turkish life throughout history. Afterward head to Hippodrome, the place where chariot races and competitive athletic events took place during the Roman period. Conclude with a visit to St. Sophia, the great Byzantine Basilica built in the 6th century, which was later converted to a mosque. This evening, savour dinner together

**Due to traffic congestion the order of sightseeing may change*

Overnight: Istanbul

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 16 - Anzac Cemetery, Drive to Canakkale

This morning, drive to the town of Gallipoli, site of the famous Ottoman victory against the Allies during World War I. Visit the Anzac Cemetery, a memorial to the casualties of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, whose fame grew back home as word of their heroic efforts spread. Afterwards, cross the Dardanelles by ferry and continue to the Canakkale province, located in northwest Turkey, where you will arrive in the early evening.

Overnight: Canakkale

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 17 - Visit Troy, Pergamum, Drive to Kusadasi

This morning, proceed to the classical city of Troy. Tour this 4000-year-old city and legendary centre of the Trojan War, made immortal by Homer's epic poem The Iliad. Then, drive to Pergamum, a powerful kingdom during the ancient Hellenistic period, and visit the Asclepion, the ancient Roman spa centre. Continue to Kusadasi, a city believed to be the birthplace of Homer, where you will arrive in the early evening.

Overnight: Kusadasi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 18 - Full Day in Kusadasi

Enjoy a full day at leisure in Kusadasi. Or, join the *optional* tour to Ancient Ephesus where the Temple of Artemis, one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World," once stood. Walk along the 2000-year-old marble streets; see the Great Theatre, the Odeon, the Fountain of Trajan, Temple of Hadrian, and the Library of Celsus. Visit the peaceful House of the Virgin Mary, believed to be her last residence and the Basilica of St. John. Following the tour, participate in a leather factory visit to shop or return to the hotel.

Optional: Full Day Ephesus & House of Virgin Mary with Lunch

Overnight: Kusadasi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 19 - Pamukkale Hot Springs, Necropolis, and Hierapolis

Depart Kusadasi and drive to Pamukkale, famous for its mineral-rich hot springs and white terraces. Visit the Necropolis and the ancient city of Hierapolis "Holy City," a UNESCO World Heritage Site situated atop the Pamukkale hot springs. The Pamukkale hot springs have served as a therapeutic thermal spa since the 2nd century B.C. Tonight, gather together for dinner.

Overnight: Pamukkale

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 20 - Travel to Konya

Today, travel from Pamukkale, the "Cotton Castle," to Konya, a city renowned for its Seljuk architecture and also as the home of the "Whirling Dervishes."

Arrive in the afternoon and visit the Mausoleum of Mevlana with its distinctive fluted dome of turquoise tiles. View works of the 13th century leader Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, one of the greatest mystical poets of Islam. The Mevlevi Sufi order was founded to follow his teachings. After exploring the museum, join your fellow travellers for dinner together.

Overnight: Konya

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 21 - Visit Caravanserai of Sultanhan en route to Cappadocia

Depart for Cappadocia, visiting the magnificent Caravanserai of Sultanhan en-route. Afterward, visit Guzelyurt, a fine example of cave dwellings and Greek influences in the Cappadocia region. Following a special home hosted lunch, continue to Nevsehir in Cappadocia. Upon arrival in Cappadocia, visit a carpet atelier and watch a demonstration of carpet weaving. After, check into your hotel with free time before dinner. Tonight, attend the *optional* Whirling Dervish performance; their captivating mystical ritual connects one in infinite spinning to perfect harmony.

Optional: Whirling Dervishes Performance (PM)

Overnight: Cappadocia

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 22 - Morning Sightseeing in Cappadocia

Awake very early to participate in the *optional* hot air Balloon Ride that takes you soaring over the magnificent Cappadocian landscape with its incredible fairy chimney rock formations -- the feeling is both serene and sublime. Then, explore Cappadocia with your group to see Guvercinlik, Uchisar, Pasabag, and the Devrent Valley. Famed for temples and houses cut directly into the region's spectacular rock formations, Cappadocia has captivated travellers for centuries.

Perhaps, opt to join the *optional* half day tour of Cappadocia that includes the Open-Air Museum in Goreme Valley; see early Christian churches decorated with unique frescoes. Explore the village of Avanos, famous for its beautiful old houses and onyx, and visit a local pottery shop. The tour ends at the fascinating Ozkonak Underground City, built on the northern slopes of Mt. Idis. Return to the hotel with free time before dinner tonight.

Optional: Cappadocia Balloon Ride (AM)

Optional: Half Day Cappadocia (PM)

Overnight: Cappadocia

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 23 - Ankara, Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk

This morning, depart for Ankara, the capital and the second largest city of Turkey. Upon arrival, visit the Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk, founder and first president of the Turkish Republic. Leading up to the Mausoleum, also known as the Anitkabir, lies a vast brick courtyard and monumental avenue lined with Neo-Hittite stone statues and cenotaphs beneath its colonnades. The most noted cenotaphs within the complex are those of General Ismet Inonu, a close comrade of Ataturk's and his successor, and that of Ataturk himself, a large and highly decorative marble cenotaph, beneath which lies his tomb. Continue to the Anatolian Civilizations Museum built in two Ottoman buildings located near Ankara Castle. The museum features exhibits of Anatolian archaeological artifacts, as well as artifacts from the Paleolithic Age to the present.

Overnight: Ankara

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 24 - Travel to Istanbul

Depart for Istanbul, arriving in the early afternoon. Leisure time to explore on your own on this last day in Turkey. Perhaps, embark on the *optional* cruise along the Bosphorus, the winding straits separating Europe and Asia. View humble fishing villages and suspension bridges set against the dramatic outline of the Strait. Tonight at dinner, bid farewell to your Tour Manager.

Optional: Half Day Istanbul Bosphorus Cruise & Grand Bazaar (PM)

Overnight: Istanbul

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 25 - Depart Turkey

Check out of the hotel this morning and make your way to the airport

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, ocean conditions, road access, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

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**For help planning your ideal holiday,
please call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com**

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MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

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4. 120 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.

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