



SMALL SHIP CRUISE

## TANTALISING TÜRKİYE WITH MEDITERRANEAN WONDERS

2026

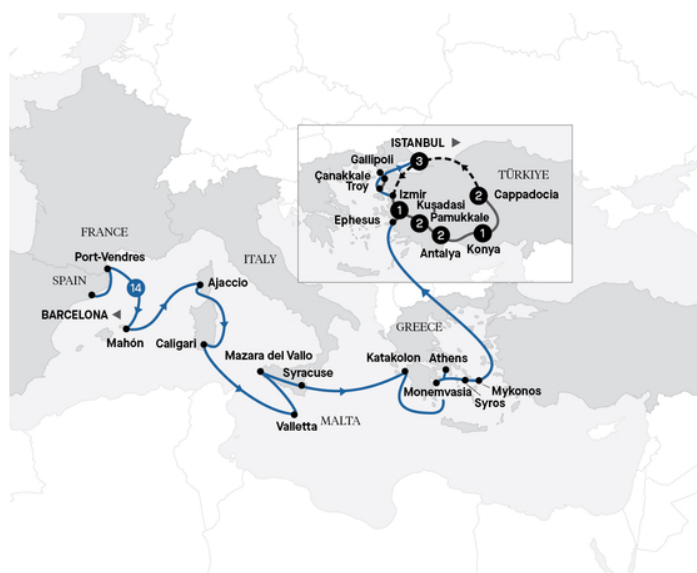
EUSSCT26

 26 days / 25 nights Small Ship Cruise

 Barcelona to Istanbul

### ITINERARY

To view the itinerary in greater depth, simply click on your preferred day from the interactive list to unveil its details. Discover daily activities, immersive experiences and insider local tips that make your travel unforgettable.



### BARCELONA TO ISTANBUL

26 days / 26 nights Small Ship Cruise

DAY 1

#### Arrive Barcelona

We'll meet you on arrival and transfer you to the ultra-luxurious Seabourn Venture. Unpack, relax and get acquainted with your ship.



**Stay:** 14 nights, Seabourn Venture

**Daily:** • Dinner

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## DAY 2

### Port-Vendres

Dock in Port-Vendres, a picturesque coastal town nestled on the Côte Vermeille in the south of France near Spain. Famous for its fishing port, Port-Vendres offers a captivating blend of old-world charm and natural beauty. Surrounding the fortified town, the foothills of the Albères mountains gently cascade down into the Mediterranean Sea. Here, you'll have a choice of tours.

#### Freedom of Choice – Perpignan Guided Tour

Explore Perpignan, a city steeped in history and rich in cultural heritage. From the fascinating fossils of Serrat d'en Vaquer to striking 20th-century architecture, Perpignan's story spans over two millennia. Set out on a walking tour of the city centre, visiting landmarks like the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist and the one-of-a-kind Campo Santo, a rare cemetery cloister.

#### Freedom of Choice – Caves Byrrh

Travel to the medieval town of Thuir, located at the base of the Pyrenees foothills, and visit the prestigious Caves Byrrh, a historic French aperitif winery. Byrrh is a unique vermouth aperitif crafted in Thuir since 1886, made from Roussillon and Malaga wines blended with cinchona, coffee, cocoa and spices. Learn about how Byrrh is produced and its fascinating evolution during the 20th century from a medicinal remedy to a world-renowned aperitif. See the world's largest oak casks – with a capacity of over one million litres – and conclude your tour with a tasting before returning to your ship in Port-Vendres.

#### Freedom of Choice – Salses-le-Château Guided Tour

Enjoy a scenic drive to Salses-le-Château, a village named after its remarkably preserved fortress. Built for King Ferdinand of Aragon, Spain's ruler during the Age of Discovery, Salses Castle stands on a vital Mediterranean passage once traversed by Hannibal's army in 218 BC. On a guided tour, explore its storied past and strategic role on the historic France-Spain border.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 3

### Mahón

Journey to the Spanish island of Menorca, known for its sweeping countryside, historic towns and superb beaches. In 1708, British and Dutch forces captured the island from Spain, and the British occupied the island on and off until it was returned to Spain in 1802. Dock in the capital, Mahón, known locally as Maó. The port of Mahón is the largest natural harbour in the Mediterranean and the second largest in the world. Decide how to explore today with a range of sightseeing options to choose from.

#### Freedom of Choice – Island Tour

Tour an old fishing village perched on a natural harbour, then visit Monte Toro, known as the spiritual centre of the island, before continuing to Binibeca. See the whitewashed houses, cobbled streets and narrow passages before heading back to the pier.

#### Freedom of Choice – Gin Distillery

Visit a local gin distillery to learn about the gin-making process. The production of gin began on Menorca in the 18th century to satiate the thirst of British sailors, while the island was under British occupation. Mahón gin is recognised as being one of the first gins made in the Mediterranean.

#### Enrich Your Experience – Snorkelling in Fornells Bay

Set out on a fully escorted snorkelling excursion in Fornells Bay (additional expense). Get fitted out with your equipment, then head out to a sheltered bay. Here, you'll receive further instructions from a qualified snorkel instructor before exploring some of the most crystal-clear waters in the world. Return to Fornells and enjoy time at leisure to wander through this old fishing village.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

Enrich Your Experience:

Elevate your journey with a select range of bespoke experiences. These curated activities are available at an additional cost to your tour price, enabling you to dive deeper into each incredible destination.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 4

### Ajaccio

Dock in Ajaccio, located on the French island of Corsica. Embark on your chosen sightseeing activity.



### Freedom of Choice – Maison Bonaparte

Take a guided walking tour through Ajaccio's Old Town and learn about the history of the Bonaparte family in Corsica, which goes back to the late 15th century. Visit Maison Bonaparte, the home where Napoleon was born in 1769. The home remained in the family's possession until 1923 when it was donated to the State. Now a small museum, Maison Bonaparte features magnificent 18th-century furniture, artefacts, weapons and documents, all of which belonged to the Bonaparte family.

### Freedom of Choice – Ocana and Ajaccio Market

Travel to Ocana, a hillside commune in the countryside known for its cobbled, red tile-roofed homes. Here, you'll visit Maison des Senteurs, a distillery that has produced essential oils for over 20 years. Learn about how the distillery creates different organic essential oils from native trees and plants, which are used for fragrances and natural healing products. Next, visit a local honey farm, where you'll enjoy a tour of the farm before a tasting. Return to Ajaccio and visit the local farmer's market, Fresh Market, before returning to your ship.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 5

### Cagliari

This morning, you will arrive in Cagliari, located on the Italian island of Sardinia. Here, a choice of sightseeing tours will be on offer.

### Freedom of Choice – Guided City Tour

Enjoy a guided walking tour of the ancient city of Cagliari. See the striking Piazza Palazzo and the Cathedral of Saint Cecilia, built in the 13th century in the Pisan Romanesque style.

### Freedom of Choice – Local Winery Visit

Savour a wine tasting at a family-owned winery founded in 1918, now in its third generation of winemaking, and learn about the fascinating story of the property.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 6

### Valletta

Dock in Malta's capital, Valletta, a fortified city located on a hilly peninsula between two natural harbours. An island steeped in history, Malta has been occupied by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs, French and British. This rich cultural tapestry is reflected in Valletta's diverse architecture. Decide how to explore today with an included Freedom of Choice activity.

#### Freedom of Choice – Mdina and Valletta Guided Tour

Visit Mdina, Malta's former capital and one of Europe's most remarkable examples of an ancient walled city, known for its captivating blend of medieval and baroque buildings. After a guided tour, you'll then explore Valletta, which was declared a World Heritage Site in 1980 due to its extraordinary architecture and history.

#### Freedom of Choice – Vittoriosa Tour and Market Tasting

Travel to Vittoriosa, where the Hospitallers resided and conducted their government when they first arrived in Malta in 1530. Proceed to Marsaxlokk, Malta's largest fishing village, known for its quaint village square, cafes, and colourful, traditional boats. Wander the marketplace and sample some local produce.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 7

### Mazara del Vallo

After breakfast, you will arrive back on the island of Sicily. Dock in Mazara del Vallo and venture to Selinunte Archaeological Park. Selinunte was an ancient Greek city established in the seventh century BC. Covering an impressive 270 hectares, the sprawling archaeological site is situated between rolling green hills and the glistening waters of the Mediterranean. Take a guided tour of the Acropolis, eastern temples and the ruins before returning to your ship to set sail in the afternoon.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 8

### Syracuse

This morning, set out on a walking tour of Syracuse, a city on the Ionian coast of Sicily that was founded by the Corinthians in 734 BC. Your tour will start at the Neapolis Archaeological Park, where you will visit the Latomia del



Paradiso, an ancient limestone quarry. Discover the Altar of Hiero II, Cave of Cordari, Greek Theatre and Roman Amphitheatre. Afterwards, head to the small island of Ortigia, the historic centre of Syracuse, and explore the remains of the earliest Greek constructions. In the afternoon, set sail for Greece.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 9

## Katakolon

Disembark in the scenic Greek seaside port of Katakolon and set off on an excursion to Olympia, the incredible site of the ancient Olympic Games. See the temple of Zeus, which once housed one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World, a statue of Zeus made of ivory and gold. See the gymnasium where the athletes trained, the nymphaeum, and the main stadium in which the games were held. 🏛️ You'll then enjoy a Signature Experience.

### Signature Experience

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#### Magna Grecia Estate Visit and Tasting

Be welcomed by the owners of Magna Grecia, a fourth-generation, family-owned farmhouse estate. Enjoy a tasting of local wine, olive oil, and homemade delicacies before time at leisure to stroll through the olive trees and vineyards of the estate.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 10

## Monemvasia

Arrive in Monemvasia, a striking medieval fortress town perched on a massive rock rising from the Myrtoan Sea. The name is derived from two Greek words, mone and emvasia, meaning 'single entrance', referring to the narrow causeway that connects the island to the Greek mainland. Commonly referred to as the 'Gibraltar of Greece', the town exudes a timeless charm, having resisted modernisation to preserve its unique character. Here, enjoy a choice of tours.

### Freedom of Choice

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#### Monemvasia Castle



Tour the narrow streets within the Monemvasia Castle grounds and see the church of Elkomenos Christos, which was built in the sixth or seventh century with the settlement of the first residents in the city.

### Freedom of Choice

#### Monemvasia Culinary Walk

Learn about the history of Monemvasia as you sample local products from the Peloponnese, including honey liqueur, extra virgin olive oil, and local wine.

### Freedom of Choice

#### Mystras Guided Tour

Nestled on the lower slopes of Mount Taygetos lies the silent, ruined city of Mystras. Stroll along its grass-covered pathways, weaving between centuries-old churches and the houses of noblemen, as you ascend towards the majestic citadel that crowns the summit.

During Mystra's two centuries of existence as the Byzantine capital of the Peloponnese, many churches and monasteries were erected. See the church of Agia Sofia, the impressive Pantanassa Monastery and the Cathedral of Agios Dimitrios. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to your ship.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 11

### Athens

Set out on a tour of Athens and immerse yourself in the city's most iconic landmarks, including the World Heritage-listed Acropolis. Discover the crown jewel of this sprawling ancient citadel, the Parthenon, a temple dedicated to the goddess Athena. Stroll through the historic neighbourhood of Plaka, known for its charming labyrinthine streets and neoclassical architecture. The afternoon is at your leisure. Later this evening, cruise to Syros.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 12

### Syros, Mykonos



This morning, you'll dock in Syros, one of the smallest islands of the Cyclades. Embark on a walking tour and visit the Holy Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin, the Vaporia district and Miaouli Square. Afterwards, reboard your ship and cruise to the dazzling Greek island of Mykonos. Set out on a guided tour and visit Ano Mera, the second largest village on the island, and enjoy free time to stroll through the main square. Then, travel to Kalafatis beach, where you will have time to relax and soak up the beautiful surrounds. Later, take a walking tour through the main town of Chora. Stroll through the tangle of tiny lanes, take in the whitewashed buildings with iconic blue shutters, and admire the blue-domed churches. See the old port and the famous windmills often featured on postcards.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 13

### Ku ö F 11, Ephesus

This morning, dock in Kuşadası

on Türkiye's Anatolian coast and drive to the nearby ancient city of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved classical cities in the Eastern Mediterranean. Step back in time as you immerse yourself in ancient Roman life and imagine the city's former splendour. Broad streets are lined with impressive buildings, including the Library of Celsus, which was built in memory of Celsus Polemeanus, a Roman senator and reportedly a great book lover.🏛️ After your exploration, a Signature Experience awaits.

#### Signature Experience – Folklore Show and Traditional Lunch

Visit a local handicraft museum. Here, enjoy an authentic home-cooked lunch and a folklore show.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 14

### Çanakkale, Gallipoli Peninsula, Troy

This morning, arrive in Çanakkale and immerse yourself in Anzac history with a captivating excursion to the Gallipoli Peninsula. Explore the numerous trenches and memorials that stand as a tribute to those who lost their lives in World War I. Pay your respects at Anzac Cove, the Australian Memorial at Lone Pine, and the New Zealand Memorial at Chunuk Bair. After lunch back on board, travel to the ancient city of Troy, the setting for the legendary Trojan War in Homer's two epic poems, 'The Iliad'🏰 and 'The Odyssey'. Visit the town's enthralling museum, which houses an interesting collection of Trojan artefacts, as well as a fascinating range of ancient fossils from the Bronze Age through to modern times.





**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 15

## Istanbul, Disembark Ship

Disembark your ship one final time, then discover the highlights of Istanbul. Visit the famous Hippodrome and the Blue Mosque. Explore Hagia Sophia, originally built as a Christian church in the sixth century before being transformed into a mosque by the Ottomans in 1453. Spend the afternoon at leisure.

**Stay:** Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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DAY 16

## Istanbul, Izmir, Ku ö F 11

This morning, take an included flight to Izmir. On arrival, drive an hour south to the former Greek village of Şirince. Surrounded by rolling mountains, the village is famous for its wine and olive oil production. Savour a wine tasting, then continue to the Çamlık Steam Locomotive Museum, located on the former ORC mainline, the oldest railway line in

Türkiye

. The open-air museum is home to a fascinating collection of more than 30 steam locomotives from around the world. Afterwards, drive to Kuşadası, where you'll enjoy dinner and stay tonight.

**Stay:** Elite World Kuşadası

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 17

## Ku ö F 11, Pamukkale

After breakfast, drive east through the fertile Menderes River valley, famous for its cotton production, figs and olives. Stop at the archaeological site of Aphrodisias, a former city-state that was founded near a marble quarry in the early second century BC. Aphrodisias became a major artistic centre and was home to many notable schools of sculpture. The city was famous for its many elaborate structures made from local marble, as well as the ceremonies that took place in the Aphrodite Temple in the name of Aphrodite.

Following your exploration, visit a local museum housing artefacts found in the city before savouring a tantalising lunch at a local restaurant. Then, continue to Pamukkale, where you'll stay for two nights. Pamukkale, which means



'Cotton Castle' in Turkish, is famous for its myriad of white travertine terraces, formed by the deposit of calcium carbonate from the thermal waters that flow down the hillside.

**Stay:** Two Nights, Pamukkale, Doğa Thermal Health & Spa

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 18

### Pamukkale

Today, explore the ruins of the ancient spa city of Hierapolis, situated atop Pamukkale's travertines. Likely established by Eumenes II in 190 BC, Hierapolis was rebuilt during the reign of Roman emperor Tiberius in AD 14 to 37. The city survived until 1334, when it was abandoned after an earthquake. Extensive ruins have been excavated since the 19th century, and the city was designated a World Heritage Site in 1988. Discover the ancient streets, remarkably preserved theatre and hundreds of tombs.

Then, wander through Pamukkale's natural cascading pools, which attracted thousands of people in ancient times for healing purposes, as they continue to today. Relish lunch back at your hotel before embarking on your chosen sightseeing activity. Afterwards, the remainder of the day is at leisure.

### Freedom of Choice – Relax at Do ö Thermal Health & Spa

Take time to rejuvenate in the mineral-rich thermal pools at your spa hotel, renowned for their soothing and revitalising properties.

### Freedom of Choice – Laodicea

Step into history with a visit to Laodicea, an ancient city near Pamukkale on the Lycus River. This recently excavated archaeological wonder contains one of the seven churches of early Christianity described in the New Testament Book of Revelation. Marvel at the grand theatres and colonnaded streets, all showcasing the city's size and sophistication.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 19

### Pamukkale, Antalya



Journey through the spectacular Taurus Mountains to Antalya, the largest city on Türkiye's western Mediterranean coast. Home to crystal-clear turquoise waters and golden beaches set against the backdrop of dramatic mountains, Antalya seamlessly blends its history with the new. Savour lunch before exploring the remarkably preserved Old Town of Kaleiçi, which translates to 'inside the castle'. Until modern times, the city remained almost entirely enclosed within its walls. Visit Hadrian's Gate, the city walls, ancient harbour and protected Ottoman quarter.

**Stay:** Two Nights, Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Antalya

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 20

### Antalya

After breakfast, visit two major archaeological sites on the Mediterranean Coast of Türkiye, the ancient Greco-Roman cities of

Aspendos and Perge. Begin in Aspendos, well-known for its Roman Theatre built by Marcus Aurelius, the best-preserved theatre in Türkiye. Then, drive to the impressive aqueducts, which brought water to the city from the mountains in the north. Continue to Perge, once a renowned centre of learning and visited by St. Paul. The awe-inspiring Greco-Roman site features two main colonnaded streets, a vast stadium and striking temples, offering a glimpse into its glorious past.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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#### DAY 21

### Antalya, Konya

Travel once more through the picturesque Taurus Mountains before arriving in Konya. Known as the ancient city of Iconium in the Bible, Konya is rich in spiritual and historical significance. While St. Paul was unsuccessful in establishing a community here, Konya later became world-famous as the home of the revered Sufi poet and mystic, Rūmī, known as Mevlāna in Türkiye. After lunch, visit the Mevlāna Museum, which houses the tomb of this famous spiritual leader. The mausoleum is a sacred Islamic shrine and has become a place of universal pilgrimage. Continue to the Karatay Museum, a former Seljuk theological school, and marvel at the exquisite collection of tiles from the 13th century. Enjoy dinner this evening at your hotel.

**Stay:** Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Konya

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 22

## Konya, Cappadocia

Depart Konya and visit the Sultanhanı Caravanserai, one of the largest Seljuk caravanserais that provided lodging along the legendary Silk Road. Continue to Kaymaklı, one of the several underground cities in Cappadocia that were used in times of danger. In ancient times, inhabitants carved underground dwellings out of the soft volcanic rock, which eventually grew to become entire cities. Set eight levels deep into the earth, Kaymaklı features a labyrinth of tunnels and rooms. After lunch, visit Pigeon Valley and enjoy a photo stop at Uchisar Castle before arriving at your hotel. Tonight, a spectacular Signature Experience awaits.

### Signature Experience – Enchanting Evening in Cappadocia

Experience the magic of Cappadocia during an unforgettable evening as you immerse yourself in the region's rich heritage. Savour traditional Turkish fare while being mesmerised by the hypnotic rhythms of belly dancers. Then, witness a captivating whirling dervish ceremony, a form of physically active meditation that originated among certain Sufi groups.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** Two Nights, Cappadocia, Alden Hotel

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 23

## Cappadocia

Today is dedicated to exploring the treasures of the Cappadocia region. Your first stop is the World Heritage-listed Göreme Open-Air Museum, where you'll see a spectacular cluster of rock-cut churches, chapels and monasteries with beautiful Byzantine frescoes. Next, visit Paşabağı, a small valley where Türkiye's famous basalt-topped fairy chimneys can be found. Continue to the Zelve Open-Air Museum, home to crumbling caves and churches across three valleys. Zelve served as a monastic retreat from the 9th to the 13th century before it became a village, which was inhabited until 1952. Round off your day with a visit to a pottery workshop or weaving centre, then savour dinner this evening in Cappadocia.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 24

## Cappadocia, Istanbul



This morning, take an included flight to vibrant Istanbul. Straddling Europe and Asia, Türkiye's largest city is known for its rich history, striking architecture and iconic landmarks. Upon arrival, continue to your luxurious hotel, where you'll stay for the next two nights. Spend the afternoon at leisure to explore this majestic metropolis.

**Stay:** Two Nights, Conrad Istanbul Bosphorus

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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DAY 25

## Istanbul

Decide how to spend your morning as you set out on your chosen sightseeing activity.

### Freedom of Choice – Topkapı Palace

Explore the extravagant Topkapı Palace, which served as the residence of the Ottoman sultans for nearly four centuries.

### Freedom of Choice – Bosphorus Cruise and Spice Market

See Istanbul's enchanting highlights from the water during a relaxing cruise on the Bosphorus, a crucial sea strait which has played a major role in world trade for many centuries. Then, visit the vibrant Spice Market, one of the city's largest bazaars.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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DAY 26

## Depart Istanbul

Following breakfast, you'll be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.



**Daily:** • Breakfast

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