

## T – 2 / OTTOMAN SPLENDOURS (DAILY AFTERNOON TOUR)

We begin our tour at Topkapi Palace, which, from the 15th to the 19th century, was the principal residence of the Ottoman Sultans. We will visit the fabulous Imperial Treasury and the Baghdad Kiosk.

Topkapi Palace is now a museum and has unrivalled collections of jewelry, including the Spoonmaker's Diamond, the 3rd largest in the world, Ottoman court costumes and ceramics, notably one of the world's finest collections of early Chinese ceramics, much of it gifts from other rulers. Interestingly, some of the ceramics have a special glaze that was said to change color in the presence of poison. We also visit the Imperial Armory, displaying centuries of Ottoman weaponry.

But perhaps the loveliest features of Topkapi Palace are its courtyards with their ancient trees, and it is easy to imagine the sultan strolling here far from the cares of state and empire. The Suleymaniye Mosque is the largest and grandest of Istanbul's imperial mosques. It dates from the 16th century heyday of the Ottoman Empire, and was designed by Sinan, the greatest architect of his day and originator of the Classical Ottoman style of architecture. Of the 2,000 structures Sinan designed, Suleymaniye Mosque and its complex of charitable institutions rank among the most important. (every day except Tuesdays)

Note: On days when the Suleymaniye Mosque is closed for renovations, we visit the Rustem Pasha Mosque, another masterpiece by Sinan that has the most exquisite and extensive Iznik tile decoration of any Mosque in Istanbul.

**Topkapi Palace is closed on Tuesday.**

Tour Code	Tour Name	SIC	PRIVATE				
		PP	Min 2 Pax	Min 4 Pax	Min 6 Pax	Min 8 Pax	Min 10 Pax
T2	Ottoman Splendours Tour	€110	€220	€150	€120	€110	€100