



★ *Destination* GUIDE ★

Istanbul to Bodrum

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP

① ISTANBUL

② THE SEA OF MARMARA
ERDEK, CANAKKALE, GALLIPOLI, TROY

③ ④ THE AEOLIAN COAST
BOZCAADA, ASSOS, AYVALIK
PERGAMUM, CANDARLI, FOÇA

⑤ THE IONIC COAST
ÇESME, KUSADASI, DIDIMYA

⑥ THE BODRUM PENINSULA

⑦ GÜMÜSLÜK

⑧ BODRUM



Anchor off a secluded golden beach backed by majestic mountains heavy with the scent of pine and wildflowers. Cruise to ancient villages separated by vast stretches of coastline with few signs of civilization; the occasional grouping of tumbled marble temple stones, the herd of remarkably agile mountain goats. Turkey is a tapestry of contradictions: ancient and modern, Asian and Western, wondrous and ordinary, familiar and exotic. Sophisticated marinas and world class resorts are within range of dirt roads and adobe hamlets. Minarets every morning, everywhere, emit a pre-dawn call to prayer. At sundown couples sipping cocktails marvel at the lavender sky. Throughout the day, the exquisitely shifting hues of the Aegean Sea defy all but poetic description.



Istanbul

Turkey is the custodian of sites sacred to Christians, Jews, and Muslims, and priceless artifacts of Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman splendor. Historical sites reconstruct the empires of Anatolian tribes, Persians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs and Ottoman Turks. In 1923, an independent Turkey was finally achieved under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, a name affixed to countless bridges, airports and highways.

Istanbul is a dynamic, westernized metropolis infinitely enriched by its exotic, eastern pedigree. The city has more extraordinary buildings, sites, museums, galleries and shops than can be absorbed in one visit. Pedestrian promenade İstiklâl Caddesi, located in the architecturally stunning Beyoğlu district, is the Champs Elysees of Istanbul. By contrast, the 3,000 shops of the historic Kapalı Çarşı bazaar sell everything from evil eye amulets to gold-thread Persian rugs. Turkish nightlife can be an intimate adventure at a Meyhane for appetizers and potent glasses of rakı, or über-stylish on the Bosphorus shore, where Istanbul's rich and famous rub shoulders with international jet-setters.

Four Seasons Resort & Spa — www.fourseasons.com/bosphorus

Sunset Grill & Bar, Entertainment — www.sunsetgrillbar.com

Ciragan Palace Kempinski, Hotel Dining & Spa — www.kempinski.com/en/istanbul

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The Sea of Marmara : ERDEK, CANAKKALE, GALLIPOLI, TROY

Beyond Istanbul, the shores of the Sea of Marmara reach beautiful beaches and undulating landscapes of pine forests, olive groves and legendary marble quarries. A quiet, traditional way of life continues throughout the villages; most men are fisherman or farmers and women are rarely seen out of doors. Erdek is a pretty resort town with shops, markets, restaurants and a few night spots. Scenic islands with tiny ports just off the Erdek peninsula offer peaceful anchorages. Cruise southwest to Canakkale in the Dardanelles, the closest city to both the battlefields of Gallipoli and the fated city of Troy. Stroll the elegant waterfront promenade, visit excellent museums, authentic old town hamams and mosques, and a famous wooden horse.

Hotel Limani Canakkale Restaurant — <http://hotellimani.com>

Museums & Archeological Sites of Turkey — <http://muze.gov.tr/museums>

“Even fairly inexperienced divers can explore the British, French and Italian ships sunk around Gallipoli and Canakkale in the Dardanelles during WWI. More than 200 wrecks rest at various depths. Touching history that only divers can reach amidst exotic marine life is a great diving experience.”

— Captain Ace Anday

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The Aeolian Coast : BOZCAADA, ASSOS, AYVALIK

Explore the beaches, restaurants, ruins and wine on the little island of Bozcaada, a divine retreat. Navigate close to the mainland of gentle green hills and long empty beaches to reach the fishing village and ancient harbor of Assos. Climb the ruins of the Temple of Athena built atop an extinct volcano. Across the bay, experience living history in Ayvalik's Old Town, a traditional Greek Christian village. Horses and handcarts negotiate narrow, cobbled passageways lined with Greek-style homes. Quite a divergent scene from the pretty, palm-lined waterfront with late-model cars parked in front of neo-colonial Ottoman buildings. Advanced divers will want to dive the famous red coral sites just offshore. Shallow sites are home to moray eels, octopi, sea horses and a variety of fish.

History of Assos — www.goddess-athena.org/Museum/Temples/Assos

LAL Girit Mutfagi Restaurant, Ayvalik — www.lalgitmutfagi.com

Bozcaada official Site — www.bozcaada.gov.tr

“Bozcaada has had vineyards since ancient times. They even imprinted a bunch of grapes on their coins thousands of years ago! Yet in June, 2013, a law passed that forbids liquor advertising. Websites have been shut down and you won't see a brochure anywhere. Call the winery to arrange a private tour of your favorite vineyard.”

— Captain Kevin Baran

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The Aeolian Coast : PERGAMUM, CANDARLI, FOÇA

Turkish coffee is recognized as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Turks. Introduced in Istanbul in the 16th century, ceremonial preparation remains unique to Turks. The popularity of Turkish coffee spread across Europe in the 17th century. Famous connoisseurs included Balzac, Moliere, Dumas, Victor Hugo and Pierre Lotti. Have a coffee to experience a core part of Turkish culture today.

Dock in Dikili to visit the ancient site of Pergamum at present day Bergama. The charming Bistro-Cafe at Red Basilica Church is a must for Turkish coffee and canapés. Be sure to be on deck cruising through the Gulf of Çandarli. In town, fishermen fill the waterfront tea houses and farmers cart loads of produce down to the docks. Here, the 14th century Castle of St. Peter is impressive and usually uncrowded. Launch the yacht toys at Foça, where ideal conditions attract world-class kite- and wind surfers. Anchor overnight in this historic harbor that has welcomed mariners since 600 BC. Take an evening stroll down polished stone streets to peruse the shops and sample a glass of local Taskoy wine.

Red Basilica Cafe-Bistro, Bergama — www.redbasilica.com

Çandarli Website — www.candarlida.com

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The Ionic Coast : ÇESME, KUSADASI, DIDIMYA

Dock at luxury Çesme Marina village and enjoy a promenade of upscale retail shops and restaurants. Pretty beaches, thermal spas and luxury resorts encircle Çesme and Alacati bays. Hundreds of international wind and kite surfers fly across the flat water, over a sandy bottom, keeping neon-colored sails rigid in ever-steady winds. Further south, plan an afternoon arrival to Setur Marina at Kussadası for an excursion to ancient Ephesus and avoid the midday crowds. Hire a guide at the souvenir stands to tour what scholars deem the most remarkable reconstruction in the world. At the quaint village of Didimya roam the massive steps, columns and sculptures of the Temple of Apollo, beautifully lit at night.

Place Restaurant, Alacati — www.place.com.tr

Babylon Ayayorgi Beach & Jazz Club, Çesme — www.babylon.com.tr

“Anglers may be interested to know that at practically every saltwater fishing site you can fish with local fishermen, using their methods and tackle. For locals, the best saltwater fishing season is from late summer until early winter. In summer, saltwater fish approach the shores; in winter, they retreat to deep, open waters.”

— Captain Rifat Hasim

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Bodrum Peninsula

The Bodrum Peninsula is famous for its yachting culture, five-star marinas and exclusive night life. The coast is densely populated and developed, yet jagged topography conceals quiet anchorages, especially in the gulf of Hisaronu. Torba is a petite fishing village that manages to absorb celebrity summer homes and superyachts without a loss of charm. Deeply indented bays with little current or surf are a thrill to explore by Jet Ski or tender. The Gulf of Güllük offers a maze of yacht anchorages, from romantic and remote to upscale with full amenities. At Göltürkbükü, also called Türkbükü, relax and be pampered at Maca Kizi Beach, or head to the decadent Bianca Beach Club, with lounges, cabana beds and a DJ that fuels the party mayhem.

Arispel Restaurant & Beach Club — www.arsipel.com.tr

Maçakızı Hotel & Nuxe Spa, Göltürkbükü — www.macakizi.com

“ Located at an historic trade crossroads linking to the Silk Road, Turkey has been known as a shopper’s paradise for centuries. You will find kilims and hand-woven Turkish carpets, jewelry, antiques, Iznik ceramics and carved meerschaum. Watch out for fakes of famous designer brands, and don’t be afraid to bargain hard at the bazaar. ”

— Captain Melih Süreya

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“From the town center you can wade to Rabbit Island over an ancient sunken causeway. You can see the ruins of archaic Myndos in water knee-deep. I like to snorkel around the ancient harbor walls at the base of the headlands just northwest of the village; the site that Brutus and Cassius escaped to in 44 B.C. after murdering Julius Caesar.”

— Captain Duncan Stephenson

Gümüslük

Gümüslük is a whimsical mix of modern materials inset with Hellenistic column headings and random blocks of ancient stone. Patrons of the arts will admire the sophisticated artist colony founded here by painters, writers, designers and musicians. The Municipality Handmade Craft Market (El SanatlarıÇarsısı), and the Handicraft Bazaar display original works. A world-renowned, annual classical music festival features performances, workshops and master classes that run from mid-July to mid-August. Open-air events performed in the Antique Stone Quarries, which supplied King Mausolos (377–353 BC) stones for his palace and Mausoleum, are profoundly romantic.

Gümüslük Classical Music Festival, Bodrum — www.gumuslukfestival.org

Aquarium Restaurants, Yalikavak & Gümüslük — www.aquariumgumusluk.com/site.asp

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Bodrum

This yachting mecca has beautiful beaches, scenic bays and historic sites that include one of the seven ancient wonders of the world. The city is a rich cultural capital and an indulgent playground for high profile visitors thanks to savvy tourist development. The shopping is superb, whether at outdoor craft markets or designer boutiques. The Castle of St Peter's houses the artifacts of the Museum of Underwater Archaeology. Divers can explore previously prohibited wrecks in the region that yielded these finds. For therapeutic relaxation, cruise to nearby Karaada Island to follow in Cleopatra's wake. She spent three years here, rejuvenating with daily mud baths and thermal soakings, while hiding from the Romans.

Billionaire Club Entertainment — www.palmarina.com.tr

Kempinski Hotel & Spa Bodrum — www.kempinski.com/en/bodrum/hotel-barbaros-bay/luxury-spa

“Bodrum parties all night long, and there's a choice of places to paint the town red. Inside the Palmarina, the Billionaire Club is a celebrity beach club scene by day and a happening dance club by night. At the Newold Club in the town center, lounge music starts early, at 9:00pm, where most places don't get going until midnight.”

— Captain Duncan Stephenson

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COUNTRY	VOLTAGE	PLUG
Greece	220 V	Euro & French 2-pin
Turkey	230 V	Euro 2-pin

TIME ZONE: UTC +2: Daylight saving time is observed: +1hr begins last Sunday in March; ends last Sunday in October

ECONOMY: Tourism, Industry, Agriculture

DRESS CODE: Dress conservatively — scantily clad women draw unwanted attention. At mosques men must wear long pants, women must cover their head, arms and legs. You must remove shoes so wear socks. Robes are usually provided if clothing is inappropriate.

DRIVING: Motorists drive on the right side of the road as in North America. In Turkey, cell phone use while driving is prohibited.

GOVERNMENTS & POLITICAL SYSTEMS: Greece, parliamentary republic; Turkey, republican parliamentary democracy

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: Greek, Turkish

OFFICIAL CURRENCY: Greece: Euro, banks only open in mornings, credit cards rarely accepted. Turkey: Lira (TRY); prices often quoted in € or \$ due to high inflation.

MELTEMI WINDS: Summer on the Turkish Riviera is dominated by northerly quadrant meltemi winds, NE near the Dardanelles, and westerly from Marmaris to Kas, becoming lighter eastward from the Bodrum peninsula.

When to visit:

April through October the weather is warm, sunny and spectacular. In spring and early summer the farms, fields and orchards are in bloom. Summertime stretches to the end of October and water temperatures stay at about 82° all season. September and October yacht charter rates decrease along with tourist crowds.

CLIMATE DATA FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Average High °F	56	56	59	67	75	82	88	87	81	73	65	59	71
Average Low °F	45	46	47	52	60	68	72	71	67	60	54	47	57
Average Rainfall (mm)	45	49	43	25	17	7	7	9	10	48	53	67	32

Climate:

Swimming season begins in mid-May and ends in September. At the height of the eastern Mediterranean's hot, dry, summer, there are periods when temperatures flirt with triple digits. Winters are mild and wet. Temperatures remain above freezing and rain storms with strong winds can develop close to the shore, especially around Antalya.

VISA INFORMATION

www.evisa.gov.tr



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Ancient waters beckon...