

# Turquoise Coast Multi-Sport

*Get ready for the travel experience of a lifetime! The Turkish people are unsurpassed in their hospitality, the food is to die for, the coastline is a dream and the country is filled with timeless villages, magnificent scenery and amazing historic sites which transport you to the glory and splendor of the ancient world.*

**Day 1. Arrive Istanbul, Celal Sultan Hotel or similar** (<http://www.celalsultan.com> / +90 (212)-520-9323 / private baths)

Welcome to Turkey! We are met on arrival at Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport and transferred to your hotel in Istanbul's fascinating Old City, the Sultanahmet.

Time permitting, we enjoy a taste of this imperial metropolis that was capital to the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires with a visit to one of its iconic sights, the Blue Mosque (1616 A.D.) famous for its six minarets and stunning cascade of domes.

Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a favorite local restaurant.

- Arrival before 12:00pm is recommended to allow time for afternoon sightseeing.
- Airport transfer 30 minutes

**Day 2. Istanbul, Celal Sultan Hotel or similar**

Today is devoted to exploring the Old City of Istanbul, the Sultanahmet, which dominated the Mediterranean world for over 1000 years.

We start with a visit to the Roman Hippodrome (203 A.D.) with its Egyptian Obelisk dating to 16th century B.C., Serpentine Column from 5th century B.C. and Stone Obelisk erected in 10th century A.D. Next is Hagia Sophia, one of the world's great marvels of religious architecture constructed first as a Christian church by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian in 536 A.D. The Church was converted into a mosque after the Ottoman conquest in 1453 and then into a museum after the founding of the Turkish Republic.

After lunch we visit Topkapi Palace, begun by Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, it was the imperial residence of the Ottoman sultans for 400 years. Next we visit the Basilica Cistern. Built by Emperor Justinian in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, it can hold 21 million gallons of water and has 336 wonderfully carved marble columns. We end the day at Istanbul's Grand Bazaar whose 4000 shops offer everything imaginable from Turkish carpets and alabaster bookends to a astounding array of foods and spices, and clothing and jewelry of every description.

**Day 3. Selcuk, Kirkinca House Hotel** (<http://www.kirkinca.com/en/> / +90-232-898-3133 / private baths)

This morning we fly to Izmir and drive to the city of Selcuk where we visit the ancient city of Ephesus, considered by many the best preserved ancient city in the world.

Ancient Ephesus was a cosmopolitan trading center of 250,000 that was made capitol of Roman Asia by the Emperor Augustus. In these streets Marc Anthony romanced Cleopatra and St. Paul preached the new religion of Christianity. The marble avenues, wonderfully preserved homes, temples, theaters, baths, markets, brothels, libraries and gymnasiums transport us back to the splendor of the ancient world.

After Ephesus, we visit the ruins of the great Temple of Artemis, the largest Greek temple ever built and one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Isa Bey Mosque and the Basilica of St. John

- Flight to Izmir 1 hour
- Drive to Selcuk 1 hour

**Day 4. Ephesus, Hotel Hal-Tur or similar** (private bath / <http://www.haltur.net/> 0258-272-2723)

This morning we visit the House of the Virgin Mary. The present structure dates from the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D. but was built over the foundation of an older building believed to be Mary's last home.

After our tour we drive to the site of ancient Aphrodisias. The restoration of the site is one of the most stunning in Turkey and its Stadium, Temple of Aphrodite and Tetracylon are especially remarkable.

We overnight at the Hotel Hal-Tur in Pamukkale overlooking its world famous travertine pools and the ancient Roman spa of Hierapolis, both declared World Heritage sites in 1988.

**Day 5. Dalyan Cruise, Dalyan pension** ([www.dalyanpansion.com/](http://www.dalyanpansion.com/) private baths)

This morning we explore Pamukkale and Hierapolis before driving to Dalyan for a cruise on the Dalyan River. We board at Iztuzu Beach, a protected nesting area for endangered loggerhead turtles, then follow the river's

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circuitous route through the vast reed beds of the Dalyan Delta Nature Preserve. After our cruise we stop for a relaxing soak in the hot spring and mud baths at Ilica.

- Drive to Dalyan 2.5 hours

#### **Day 6. Rafting in Dalaman River, Dalyan Pension**

Get ready to get wet! Today we raft the Dalaman River, one of the most exciting one-day whitewater adventures in Turkey. Thrilling Class III to IV rapids, a spectacular limestone canyon and refreshing crystal clear water all make for an unforgettable day. No experience needed. Riverside BBQ.

- Rafting Dalaman River - Class III & IV (3-4 hrs)
- Drive to river put-in 1 hour

#### **Day 7. Kaunos & Tomb Bay, Private Yacht**

This morning we tour the ruins of the ancient city of Kaunos (Caunos). This is an impressive site with its well excavated Roman bath, theatre, agora and Byzantine church. But it is the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Lycian rock tombs carved into the cliffs which make Kaunos truly exceptional. After exploring the site we drive to the seaside town of Gocek and board our private yacht or *gulet* for our exploration of the famed "Turquoise Coast" and its pine clad jewel the Gulf of Fethiye.

A *gulet* is a traditionally built wooden ship designed to run under sail or motor and it's the ideal experience this breathtaking meeting of sea and land. Each guest cabin has a double berth or twin beds, toilet, shower and small closet. Public areas include a saloon, a fully equipped galley and lots of uncluttered deck space for relaxing. We are pampered each day with al fresco meals including a variety of fresh salads, fruits, grilled meats, fish and tempting Turkish specialties.

Today we sail 6 miles to delightful Tomb Bay (Taskaya) where the ancient city of Crya's baths are still evident among the olive trees and oleander and its acropolis is a short scramble above a seaside restaurant.

- Drive to Gocek 1 hour

#### **Day 8. Cleopatra's Bath, Ancient Lydea, Private Yacht**

Today we sail to Cleopatra's bath where she is said to have honeymooned with Marc Antony in 32 B.C. then take the 2 hour hike to the hill top site of rarely visited ancient Lydea with its mausolea, agora foundations, statue remnants, Corinthian column sections, and inscribed pedestals. We return to our yacht for lunch then continue sailing along the coast to lovely Gemile Island where we anchor for the night.

#### **Day 9. Sea Kayaking, Gemiler (St Nicholas) Island, Private Yacht**

From the beach at Gemiler Bay, this morning we paddle around Gemiler Island, exploring its stunning coastline and stopping to swim and snorkel before returning to our yacht. It is believed that St. Nicholas, the traditional inspiration for Santa Claus, once lived here. Gemiler was a sanctuary for European pilgrims coming on their way to the Holy Land and is dotted with churches dating from the Middle Ages.

#### **Day 10. End of tour**

After breakfast we disembark to transfer to Dalaman Airport for our flight back to Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport and our homeward flights.

- Drive to Dalaman airport 30 minutes

## **Extend Your Adventure with a Trip to Magical Cappadocia or a Hiking Tour of Turkey's Enchanting Aegean Coast**

Experience the magical region of central Turkey called Cappadocia, famous for its fairytale landscape of rock hewn homes and churches, underground cities and traditional way of life. Or trek part of Turkey's first long distance hiking trail, the Lycian Way, as it snakes its way past timeless villages, along secluded beaches and through scented pine forests with heart stopping vistas of the azure Aegean all along the way.

Call us for all the details 1-800-488-8483.

### **Tour Details**

**Accommodations:** Hotel (6 nights) & yacht (3 nights)

**Length:** 10 days/ 9 nights

**Group Size:** Minimum 4/ maximum 16

**2009 Dates:** August 15-24, September 5-14. Additional departures available on request.

**2010 Dates:** May 15-24, July 17-26, August 14-23, September 4-13. Additional departures available on request.

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**Price:** \$3898 per person double

**Single Supplement:** \$350 hotels only, \$500 yacht only, \$850 hotels and yacht

**Gateway Cities:** Istanbul, Turkey

**Meeting Time & Place:** Day 1, Istanbul, Turkey, Ataturk International Airport. Arrival before 12:00pm is recommended to allow time for afternoon sightseeing in Istanbul.

**Trip Conclusion:** Day 10, Dalaman Airport, Dalaman Turkey

**Trip Price Includes:** Accommodations (hotel and yacht), meals (dinner Day 1 – breakfast Day 10), domestic airfare, bottled water with meals, activities as described in the itinerary, land transportation and ferry for Dalyan rafting, airport transfers for domestic flights and international flights Day 1 and Day 10 with group arrival and departure (private transfers at additional cost), VAT, entrance fees, professional English speaking guide, equipment for rafting, snorkeling, kayaking, yacht crew, tips for hotel staff, waiters and drivers.

**Trip Price Excludes:** International airfare, travel insurance, visas, personal expenses such as phone, laundry, drinks other than bottle water with meals, tips to tour leader and yacht crew as deemed appropriate, and optional activities.

**Itinerary & Price Changes:** The itinerary and prices above describe the tour's intended price, accommodations, activities and route but the actual price and itinerary may vary. Changes in the costs of lodging, transportation, taxes, etc. along with weather conditions, safety concerns, personnel changes and other considerations can all affect our itinerary and prices and we reserve the right to make changes as deemed necessary.

## **The Next Step...**

**References** Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

**The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee:** *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value. If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!*

**How do I join this trip?** Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at [www.TheWorldOutdoors.com](http://www.TheWorldOutdoors.com). Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

**Special Requests:** If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

**Then Leave the Rest to Us...** Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, information on pre- and post-trip arrangements, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

**Travel Protection:** To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

**How do I book airfare for this trip?** Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at [sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com](mailto:sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com). Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call James TravelPoints, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or Di (ext 252) or email [GeorgiaT@travelpoints.com](mailto:GeorgiaT@travelpoints.com) or [DianeJ@travelpoints.com](mailto:DianeJ@travelpoints.com). Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

## **General Information**

**Payments & Cancellations:** A \$500 per person deposit is required at time of reservation. Trip balance is due 90 days before tour departure. Deposits are non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled by the tour operator. Cancellations made 60 to 90 days before departure incur a cancel fee of 50% of the total trip price; cancellations made 30 to 59 days before departure, cancel fee is 75% of total trip price; cancellations made less than 30 days before departure, cancel fee is 100% of total trip price.

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Local Tour Operator: The World Outdoors operates this tour through a local Turkish tour operator with years of experience and an outstanding safety record.

How difficult is this trip...really? No experience is required for any of the activities but the tour is designed for healthy adults who are comfortable with travel on small boats, moderate hikes and water activities.

#### Emergency Messages

It will be difficult to contact you during your trip. Emergency or important messages can be relayed to you by phoning *The World Outdoors* office at 800-488-8483 or 303-413-0938. Our office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain time. For emergencies after hours please contact Bill Marriner 720-289-0460 or Dean Barta 303-570-4545.

*Middle Earth Travel* is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. They can be reached from the U.S. at 001-90-242-243-1837 or 001-90-384-271-2559; from outside Turkey +90-242-243-1837 or +90-384-271-2559; or within Turkey 0-242-243-1837 or 0-384-271-2559. After hours, call from the U.S. Yunus Ozdemir: 001-90-537-203-1810 (office Manager) or Atil Ulas Cuce: 001-90-536-232-1990; from outside Turkey Yunus Ozdemir: + 90-537-203-1810 (office Manager) or Atil Ulas Cuce: +90-536-232-1990; or within Turkey Yunus Ozdemir: 0-537-203-1810 (office Manager) or Atil Ulas Cuce: 0-536-232-1990 + means you need to dial the appropriate international calling code for the country you are calling from before the rest of the number. Ask local information for the correct code.

What weather can I expect? May through September along the southern Aegean coast are typically dry, sunny and warm with daytime temperatures in the 80's and 90s and nighttime lows in the 60s and 70s. In Istanbul during the summer expect humid days with highs in the 80's and lows in the 60s.

What is a gulet? A traditionally built wooden yacht designed to run under sail or motor. The average size gulet for 12- passenger cruise is about 80 feet long and 20 feet wide with a crew of 3 - a captain, cook and sailor. Guest cabins have a twin beds, small closet, toilet and shower. Public areas include a dining area, sundeck, and lots of uncluttered space for relaxing. Cruises with fewer guests will use smaller vessels with varying arrangements. All include mouth-watering *al fresco* meals featuring fresh salads, fruits, grilled meats, fresh fish and tempting Turkish specialties.

How much do we cruise? We spend no more than 3-4 hours cruising each day we are on the water. The captain decides whether to use sails or engine. We travel in protected coastal areas where conditions are normally calm. However, if you are prone to sea sickness, consult your doctor for the treatment best for you.

Is this trip suitable for children? The tour is suitable for children 12 and older.

Health Concerns: Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationTurkey.aspx> for the latest health information on travel to Turkey.

Visas and Passports: A valid passport and visas are required for most foreign visitors to Turkey. Visit <http://www.traveldocs.com/tr/er.htm> for the latest travel requirements.

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