



# Istanbul & the Turquoise Coast

May 1-11, 2027

featuring Cappadocia & a Gulet Cruise

## Inspiring Moments

- Be awed by the extraordinary Byzantine and Ottoman **mosques and palaces of Istanbul**.
- Study beautiful Byzantine frescoes inside the rock-cut churches and chapels of **Göreme National Park**.
- Behold **Cappadocia's astonishing landscape** of surreal rock formations spectacularly sculpted by nature.
- Revel in picturesque port towns and secluded coves along the **breathtaking Turquoise Coast** aboard a small gulet.
- Step back in time at the **magnificent ruins of Ephesus**, one of the most important Greco-Roman cities in Asia.
- Descend into the **underground city of Ozkonak** to explore its fascinating labyrinth of passageways and rooms.
- Experience three **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



## Itinerary

- Day 1** Depart gateway city ✈️
- Day 2** Arrive in Istanbul and transfer 🚗 to hotel
- Day 3** Istanbul
- Day 4** Istanbul
- Day 5** Istanbul | Fly to Kayseri | Göreme National Park | Cavusin | Ürgüp
- Day 6** Devrent Valley | Ozkonak | Avanos
- Day 7** Ürgüp | Kayseri | Fly to Izmir | Ephesus | Bodrum | Embark gulet | Cruising
- Day 8** Cruising | Yaliciftlik | Etrim | Çati Bay
- Day 9** Cruising | Cleopatra Island | English Harbor
- Day 10** Karacasöğüt | Disembark gulet | Dalyan | Dalaman | Fly to Istanbul | Istanbul
- Day 11** Transfer 🚗 to airport and depart for gateway city ✈️

Flights ✈️ and transfers 🚗 provided for AHI FlexAir participants.  
**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

## Included Features



- Accommodations** (with baggage handling)
  - **3 nights** in Istanbul, Turkey, at the first-class Barceló Istanbul Hotel.
  - **2 nights** in Ürgüp (Cappadocia), at the first-class Yunak Evleri Cave Hotel.
  - Cruise for **3 nights** aboard the **exclusively chartered**, first-class Gulet Boreas, a Turkish gulet yacht.
  - **1 night** in Istanbul at the first-class Barceló Istanbul Hotel.
- Transfers** (with baggage handling)
  - All transfers in the Land | Cruise program: flights and deluxe motor coaches.
- Extensive Meal Program**
  - 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 5 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Your One-of-a-Kind Journey**
  - **Small group:** Sized just right at 24 guests.
  - **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
  - **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
  - **AHI Connects | Local immersion.**
  - Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
  - A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
  - Tipping of guides and drivers.
  - **AHI Sustainability Promise |** Striving to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Above: Cappadocia



## A World of Discovery

### **AHI Connects | Lunch in a Cappadocia Home.**

Be welcomed into a private home and savor authentic dishes prepared by your local hosts.

**Istanbul: Part 1.** Head into the wonderfully aromatic and lively Spice Bazaar brimming with spices, teas and treats. Next, take a guided tour of the majestic Süleymaniye Mosque commissioned by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and completed in 1557.

Finish with a pleasant, scenic cruise along the Bosphorus Strait and the Golden Horn.

**Istanbul: Part 2.** Tour stunning Topkapi Palace, the imperial residence and court of the Ottoman sultans for almost four centuries, and view its jewel-encrusted treasures. Then, see the Hippodrome of Constantinople and go down into the atmospheric Basilica Cistern, an ancient reservoir. Afterward, visit the awe-inspiring, sixth-century Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque.

**Göreme National Park.** In Cappadocia's open-air museum, step inside remarkable rock-cut churches decorated with Byzantine frescoes that were used by a monastic community. Then, gaze over Cappadocia's captivating fairy chimneys and craggy rocks dotted with caves in Love Valley. Walk later through Cavusin, a charming village with cave houses carved in a rocky ridge.

**Devrent Valley.** See weathered formations that resemble animals and objects in this area also known as Imagination Valley.

**Ozkonak Underground City.** Explore a multilevel subterranean complex with a maze-like network of living spaces and communal chambers that once sheltered and protected thousands from invaders.

**Avanos Pottery Workshop.** Watch skilled potters shape lovely pieces from the red clay of the Kizilirmak River and learn about the techniques behind their designs.

**Ephesus.** Stroll down the wide avenue of one of the Mediterranean's most important ancient cities and behold its outstanding ruins. Admire the two-tiered façade of the second-century Library of Celsus, the Great Theater and the mosaic-adorned houses.

**Etrim.** Enjoy a walk in this quiet Anatolian

*contd.*



Local woman weaving

mountain village and learn about enduring traditions like carpet and kilim weaving.

**Sedir Adası (Cleopatra Island) & İngiliz Limanı (English Harbor).** Savor the island's crystal-clear waters and golden sand, plus relish the tranquility of a pristine harbor.

**Ancient City of Kaunos.** Cruise in a small boat along the Dalyan Strait to the ancient city of Kaunos. From the boat, gaze up at the impressive, Grecian-inspired temple tombs cut into the rugged cliffs and then head up to the hilltop for a guided tour of the ruins of the city's theater, baths, walls and other structures.

## Enrichment

### – Istanbul, The Crossroads of the World

#### UNESCO World Heritage

1. **Historic Areas of Istanbul**
2. **Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia**
3. **Ephesus**

#### **Electives | Go further afield**

**Cappadocia Hot Air Balloon Ride.** Float over the incredible, multicolored terrain of fairy chimneys, cave dwellings and pigeon houses on an unforgettable sunrise journey.

*(At an additional cost.)*

## Accommodations

**Barceló Istanbul Hotel | Istanbul**



**Yunak Evleri Cave Hotel | Ürgüp**



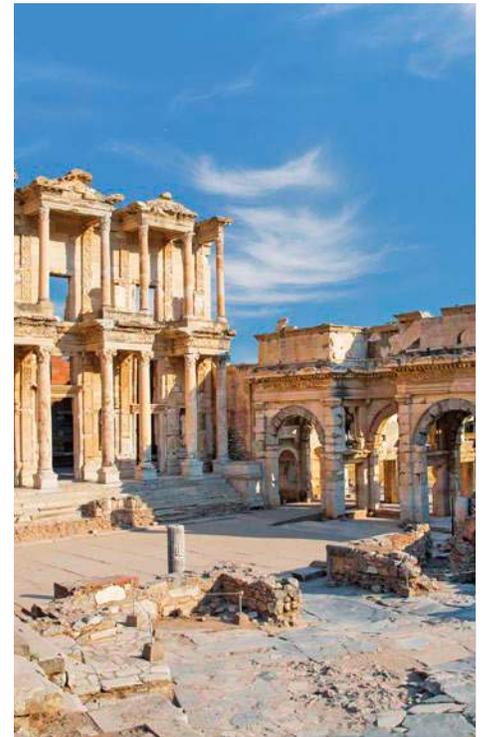
**Gulet Boreas**

16-cabin intimate Gulet Yacht

Ship's registry: Turkey



**Pricing From -  
\$7,695**



Ephesus

## AHI Travel Expertise

Our dedicated team helps travelers explore the world safely and securely.

**Travel Consultants |** Assist with the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators |** Help with everything from flights to special requests.

**Travel Director |** Manages all details to ensure a safe and memorable trip.

**Travel information |** Prepares you fully for your journey.

**Expert local guides and lecturers |** Provide friendly, knowledgeable service and share their passion for the destination.

## Let us arrange your flights!

**AHI FlexAir |** Our personalized air program features transfers, assistance and flexibility.



Süleymaniye Mosque

## ACTIVE TRAVEL

### Excursions on this program require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven and slippery surfaces
- getting on/off gulet yacht and motor coaches
- walking up steep inclines/declines and up and down stairs
- moving about a small yacht while it is in motion
- ducking and bending while navigating narrow, uneven tunnels in Ozkonak Underground City