

# FULL DAY TOUR 1

## The Legacy of Istanbul

### MORNING

#### **Ayasofya / The Hagia Sophia**

The "Shrine of Holy Wisdom", the marvelous Byzantine basilica built in the 6th century Marks the true beginning of the golden age of Justinianus, the conqueror of Africa and Italy, who achieved lasting fame through the complete revision of all Roman law, resulting in what is known today as the Corpus Juris Civilis.

In 1935 the building was converted into a museum, by the executive order of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey.

#### **Grand Bazaar**

The largest and the most attractive covered bazaar in the world; where people have been trading diamonds, carpets, food, perfumes, and, even gossip for centuries! Tour also includes a short demonstration of Turkish rugs.

#### **Sultan Ahmet Camii / The Blue Mosque**

It was the dying wish of Sultan Ahmet, who perished at a young age in the 17th century, due to a disease, to finish the mosque so that his name would live forever. It is called the Blue Mosque by visitors who fell in the love with the delicate designs of Ottoman tiles that decorate the walls of the shrine. The floral patterns of the tiles, as well as the well-lit, capacious internal spaces are a testimonial of the eternity of the soul.

**Lunch** will be served at a local restaurant.

### AFTERNOON

#### **Topkapı Palace**

The Topkapı Palace had been the Imperial residence of the Ottoman Sultans from the 15th to the 19th century. Its design, initially devised by Sultan Mehmed himself and then enhanced by Sinan, hides clues of both the rituals and the structure of Ottoman hierarchy and the running of state affairs. Home to the imperial treasury and the cabinet, as well as being the site of the barracks for the Janissaries, the elite of the army, every corner of the palace tells of the splendor of the Ottomans.

#### **Rustem Pasha Mosque OR basilica cistern**

A 16th century Ottoman Mosque, which was built in the name of the treasurer and the son-in-law of Suleiman the Magnificent, before he fell out of the Sultan's favor and removed from service. It is known to host the best examples of handmade Iznik tiles, in both interior and exterior walls; and, of course, it is seated on a complex of shops, which will give you a taste of the city's vivid local colors.

## PRICES

Per person: 85.-EURO – For 10 People/ Per person (Prices do not include 18 % V.A.T.)

## INCLUDES

- Transportation by air conditioned vehicles.
- Fully escorted by an English speaking tour guide.
- Admission fees, Lunch

## EXCLUDES

- Drinks and all personal expenses.

## PLEASE NOTE