



Gulet Cruise and Hiking onboard East Meets West

19-26 October 2015

Ephesus and Istanbul (optional)

26-30 October 2015

Turkey is renowned for its ancient history so for the first time we will be exploring the ancient Metropolis of Ephesus before moving on to the vibrant city of Istanbul; where East really does meet West; the crossroads of many civilisations it is bursting at the seams with places to see.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

The following itinerary is meant to be illustrative rather than definitive. We may follow it exactly or weather and group interests may influence it.

Monday 19 October

Today we'll fly into Dalaman, travel to Marmaris by free group transfer and be greeted by our English guide Anne and her husband Adil, co-owners of our gulet East Meets West, together with their all male crew of a cook and sailor. After settling into our cabins we share a welcome tea and biscuits, have some free time before dinner onboard in port. B, L, D

Tuesday 20 October

We start with a Turkish breakfast of fruit, tomatoes, cheese, eggs, olives, jams, bread and lashings of hot Turkish tea, there's coffee too. Our first walk will take us along broad tracks for a couple of hours before returning to the gulet. Overnight in a small bay, plenty of time for swimming and relaxation before dinner. B, L, D

Wednesday 21 October

A wonderful day packed full of interesting activities and ancient sites. We'll take a riverboat and cruise to the ancient site of Kaunos, cruise past the Lycian tombs high in the rockface, eat gozleme with a nomadic family before walking for around 4 hours through forests scattered along the coast and back to our gulet in the bay. B, L, D

Thursday 22 October

We will truly be walking in the footsteps of Romans as we follow an ancient Roman road to the ruins of a city dated to around 2AD. We continue along goat trails meandering through forests of pine and olive, visiting a nomad family along the way before arriving at the remains of Cleopatra's Bath. B,L,D

Friday 23 October

Exploring by a/c coach takes us to the ruins of Tlos a city established by the Lycians with plenty of construction in the Hellenistic period, the Romans made their contribution followed by the Byzantines. We then visit the abandoned village of Kayakoy featured in Russell Crowe's film The Water Diviner B,L,D

Saturday 24 October

Stunning views of the Fethiye Korfezi on this 4 hour walk B,L,D

Sunday 25 October

A leisurely morning cruise towards Marmaris this morning; with plenty of time for swimming and relaxation before cruising in to Marmaris port. We spend our afternoon at the Turkish Bath where we'll have a scrub/exfoliation massage, foam wash and oil massage. B, L, D

Monday 26 October

For those of us travelling on to Ephesus with Anne (who will continue to be our guide) we will leave after breakfast for a leisurely 3 hour drive before stopping for lunch. We will spend the afternoon visiting the House of Meryam and the village of Sirince where we will stay overnight in our quaint Ottoman Hotel. B, L, D We will say goodbye to those returning to the UK. Free group transfer available.

Tuesday 27 October

Explore all that this ancient city of Ephesus has to offer. We'll then take a flight in the late afternoon to Istanbul, check into our hotel and enjoy our first meal in this vibrant city. B, L, D

Wednesday 28 October

Walking is the best way to see Istanbul and today we'll combine traditional sites and an insider's view. We'll tour the must see sites of Istanbul: the Topkapi Palace, the ancient residence of mighty Ottoman Sultans, the Hagia Sophia church, one of the most extraordinary buildings in the history of architecture from the golden age of Byzantium; the Blue Mosque, Istanbul's most prominent mosque overlooking the Bosphorus and the Basilica Cistern. B, L, D

Thursday 29 October

Today we'll visit all of the things we didn't see yesterday. Take lunch with the locals in a lokanta, maybe catch the tram and certainly eat Simit on a park bench. B, L, D

Friday 30 October

We'll check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for our journeys home. There might even be time for more sightseeing and shopping if you have a late flight.

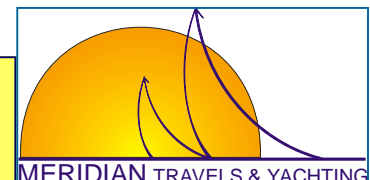


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