

Greece, Turkey & the Med



The tour with a taste of everything that makes for a memorable holiday. History, Adventure, Sailing and Sunshine! We'll experience **Istanbul** as vibrant and colourful as it's history, then pay tribute to our soldiers at **Gallipoli** and **ANZAC cove** before crossing the Dardanelles to **Troy** and **Canakkale**. We visit **Pergamon, Aphrodisias, Pamukkale, Antalya** and amazing ancient **Ephesus**. For those that wish, we'll take you high over the "tuff" landscape at **Cappadocia** in a Hot Air Balloon, then to an underground city in **Goreme**. We return to Istanbul to join our ship for a cruise around some fabulous Mediterranean Islands including **Mykonos, Santorini, Patmos, Rhodes** and **Crete**. Back on land we stay in **Athens** visiting the **Acropolis** and other local iconic sights, a full day trip to **Delphi** and time to meander the streets or shop at leisure.



“The dream is realized where you do not expect it.” — TURKISH PROVERB



GREECE, TURKEY & THE MED



PRICE & INCLUSIONS

from **\$11,796**
ex CHC, WLG or AKL
p/person share twin

Included:

- Return Economy Class Air Travel ex Christchurch, Wellington or Auckland
- 13 Breakfasts, 1 lunch and 10 Dinners
- 6 day Med' Cruise including all meals in a Category 'A' outside stateroom
- All tips and port taxes
- Local English speaking guides
- All transfers, sightseeing and entrance fees as specified
- Private Touring Coach
- Internal flight Kayseri – Istanbul
- Quality Accommodation throughout
- Services of a Travel 2 U Tour escort ex Christchurch
- Travel 2 U tour pack

Not Included:

- Items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, spending money etc
- Fuel surcharges, airport levies and airline surcharges (approx \$420)

Optional (per person):

- Return Business Class Air Travel (International only) \$ 6,800
- Upgrade to Larger stateroom on Med Cruise \$ 440
- Hot Air Ballooning Cappadocia \$ 240
- Single Room supplement \$3,108

...what this trip did was to realise that going on a group tour meant that every waking moment was stress free and totally enjoyable... It has been the best holiday I have ever taken in my life! – V SUTHERLAND



21 AUGUST – 16 SEPTEMBER • 27 DAYS

NEW ZEALAND – SINGAPORE

one night in Singapore

Day 1 – Day 2: Departing New Zealand today on Singapore Airlines, our first port o' call on this great adventure is Singapore, where we'll stay for one night before continuing to our grand destination Istanbul!

SINGAPORE – ISTANBUL

three nights in Istanbul

Day 3 – Day 5: Early this morning we arrive in Istanbul. There is time to relax at our hotel before taking an afternoon stroll to view some of Istanbul's famous sights followed by dinner at our hotel. Over the next two days we'll show you the highlights of this wonderful city, including the **Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, the Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia museum, Cistern Basilica** and **Grand Bazaar**. We'll also have the pleasure of an afternoon cruise on the Bosphorus after lunch at a nearby restaurant.

ISTANBUL – CANAKKALE

one night in Canakkale

Day 6: A fairly early start this morning as we have some ground to cover heading towards Gallipoli. Arriving around midday we begin our tour at **ANZAC cove** before continuing up the hill to **Lone Pine Cemetery** and of particular importance to New Zealanders, **Chanuk Bair**, where many of our soldiers from that ill fated campaign are remembered. The area itself is 18kms long and 5 kms wide. We then cross the Dardanelle straight by ferry and will reach our hotel by late afternoon.

CANAKKALE – IZMIR (VIA TROY)

one night in Izmir

Day 7: A short trip to start the day today as we head firstly to Troy. Despite popular belief there is more to **Troy** than just the **Trojan Horse**. Learn about the multitude of cities built one upon the other. Next stop is **Pergamon**, travelling via good roads through farm lands and fig plantations where, time permitting, we will stop and give you the opportunity to purchase some of the wonderful produce. Pergamon is located on fertile plains, punctuated by steep hills and the seemingly inaccessible fortress better known as the Acropolis. Rich in archaeological sites and steeped in history there is much to see. From here it is a fairly quiet ride to our overnight stay at Izmir.

IZMIR-EPHESUS-PAMUKKALE

two nights in Pamukkale

Day 8: Our highlights today include a visit to **ancient Ephesus** where it is believed the Apostle John brought Mother Mary after Christ's crucifixion and where she spent her remaining years. We see the amazing **Library of Celsus**, the **Amphitheatre** and the **House of the Virgin Mary**. Continuing on through fertile farmland our next stop is **Aphrodisias**, home to a magnificent theatre, the **temple of Aphrodite** and one of the best preserved examples of an early stadium you'll find. We arrive Pamukkale and our thermal spa resort late afternoon.

Day 9: This morning we visit the ancient **Hierapolis**, here you can dip your feet in the pools at the famous chalk white **travertine terrace**. For those interested in old bones and ornate crypts this afternoon you will be fascinated when we visit the elaborate **Necropolis** (cemetery).

PAMUKKALE – ANTALYA

two nights in Antalya

Day 10: As we cross the Taurus mountains and pass pine forests today, we make our way to the sea and one of Turkey's most archaeologically significant cities, Antalya. Excavations near this area uncovered artefacts dating back as far as 1900 BC. It was also from Antalya that the Knights of St John set sail to Palestine during the Crusades.

Day 11: A day at leisure today. Explore more of Antalya by foot, lay by the pool for a while or perhaps make your way down to the beautiful blue Mediterranean for a refreshing swim. Our hotel is perfectly positioned to make the most of this tremendous coastal location.



ANTALYA – KONYA

one night in Konya

Day 12: We climb the Taurus Mountains again today and view some of the prettiest scenery in Turkey. Our destination is Konya, origin of the “*Whirling Dervishes*” of Mevlana.

KONYA – CAPPADOCIA

two nights in Cappadocia

Day 13: Today we travel across the Anatolian Plain heading towards Cappadocia, along the way stopping at one of the many Caravanserai on this road. The *Caravanserai* mark the route the camel caravans took on the ancient Silk Road. We'll also see how silk is transformed from the raw material into carpets!

We arrive in Cappadocia by midday. This is a region that words just cannot do justice to. Dotted with fairy chimneys, *underground dwellings* and monasteries carved out of hillsides. Entire cities exist underground, some as deep as 12 floors down!

Day 14: For those who have elected to, we start the day early with an incredible flight over the sparse plains and fairy chimneys of the Urgup/Goreme region in our *Hot Air Balloon*. Following champagne to celebrate and a good breakfast we then have time to wander through the marvellous dwellings of the *Goreme Open Air Museum*, complete with well preserved fresco's and evidence of early civilization in true ‘Tuff’ construction.

CAPPADOCIA – KAYSERI – ISTANBUL (FLIGHT)

Day 15: We depart Cappadocia this morning making our way to Kayseri, (a journey of approx 90km's) and our onward flight to Istanbul.

CRUISING THE MEDITERRANEAN

ATHENS

three nights in Athens

Day 21: This morning we arrive at the port of Piraeus early, and upon disembarking the cruise ship will be met by our tour coach and guide. They'll show us some of the highlights of this famous Olympic city including the original *Olympic Stadium, the Acropolis* and *Temple of Nike* plus many points of interest along the way. This evening to get into the Greek theme we're going out to dinner where we will be entertained by local singers and musicians

Day 22: It's off to Delphi! Rich in mythology and Greek legend, *Delphi* sits amongst the rock and forests of holy *Mt Parnassus*. Although debate rages as to the exact date of Delphi, it is now widely accepted that it could have existed as early as 1500 BC.

Day 23: Today is yours at leisure to explore on foot, shop, sit back with an espresso in the Plaka area and just generally enjoy the world going by in this fabulous Olympic City.

ATHENS – SINGAPORE

one night in Singapore

Day 24 – Day 26: This morning we farewell this ancient city and transfer to the airport for our afternoon departure to Singapore. With a leisurely two day stay there's an opportunity to shop, sightsee or simply relax before our final flight to New Zealand.

SINGAPORE – NEW ZEALAND

Day 27: We arrive home today, full of memories of time spent with new found friends, experiences beyond expectation and a greater appreciation for this wonderful part of the world.

Day 16: ISTANBUL – You may wish to spend a leisurely morning onboard the ship or perhaps go ashore and wander through the *Egyptian Bazaar & Spice Market*. Take the Funicular to *Taxim Square* to do some last minute shopping. Either way the day is yours to relax and enjoy this beautiful city.

Day 17: MYKONOS – Time to explore this wonderful Mediterranean Island. There are many opportunities for photographs, the locals are renowned for their friendliness, and the Island is a vibrant blend of art and culture.

Day 18: We arrive in **PATMOS** this morning, burial place of *St John*. Taken by taxi to the *Grotto* where he wrote the ‘*Book of Revelations*’ and onto the spectacular monastery, a treasure house of gold, silver and religious artefacts, visitors are afforded great views and photo opportunities. If you prefer, a leisurely wander through the picturesque streets is a great way to see Patmos.

In the afternoon we're back on Turkish soil in **KUSADASI**. This is the last chance to change your remaining Lira to Euro however there are many shops and markets where the locals will be only too happy for you to contribute to the Turkish economy. Walk over to Pigeon Island and wonder the Ottoman fortifications that once protected the old port from attack by Pirates.

Day 19: RHODES – Famed as the island of sun, sea and sand, Rhodes is the third largest Greek island and (unofficially) the sunniest place in Europe. Rhodes, built by the knights of St John as a stopover point on his way to the crusades, combines the cosmopolitan character of a contemporary city with the picturesque character of a medieval town. It's a wonderful place to explore by foot at a quiet pace, and that's what we recommend.

Day 20: CRETE – Agios Nicholas, the capital of Lassithi, is a picturesque town in the eastern part of the island built on the northwest side of the peaceful bay of Mirabello. It is named after the charming 7th century Byzantine chapel of St Nikolas, erected on the spot called “Nissi” during the 7th century AD, with its bell tower, drum and dome.

In the afternoon we set sail for **SANTORINI** – there's no need to take an optional shore excursion here. Thira on the cliff top typifies everything we imagine of a Greek Island. Narrow streets and whitewashed houses, many with the customary blue roofs. Take the cable car or donkeys up the hill and shop, explore or simply sit in a taverna and watch the locals and tourists alike as they go about their business.



OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Options are available for add-on trips to Koh Samui, Phuket, Bangkok or the Maldives. Please talk to us if you would like to extend your travel further.

