Ancient Greece and Roman Byzantine collided in modern day Turkey, the two great empires leaving behind mesmerizing odes to the earliest Western Civilizations. Ancient cities like Ephesus and Troy vividly unveil a Greco Roman affair. In Istanbul and Athens the heartbeats of two empires stand still, reflected in marbled pillars and resplendent domes that cascade from afar. On this fabulous tour through Turkey and Greece you will find engrossing history and majestic beaches, treasured ruins and breathtaking landscapes. From large cities to charming villages, you will find the remnants of myths, beautiful scenery, and remarkable culture.

A Tale of Two Empires
Fabulous Turkey and Greece 16 Days
Istanbul – Canakkale – Kusadasi – Pamukkale – Antalya – Cappadocia – Ankara – Istanbul – Athens

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• Feast your eyes on Turkey’s most spectacular and surreal sights, from the ‘Cotton Castle’ of Pamukkale to the psychedelic rockscapes of Cappadocia
• Stay 3 nights in Istanbul; Follow in the footsteps of powerful sultans, courtiers and generals at Topkapi Palace and spot the distinctive tiles of the Blue Mosque
• Tour the classical 4000-year-old city of Troy immortalized in Homer’s epic poem, The Iliad
• Visit the Ozkonak, the breath-taking, unique and incredible underground city hollowed out of tufa rock
• Hierapolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famed for its sacred hot springs
• Stay 2 nights in Kusadasi and relax in the beach resort on Turkey’s Angean coast
• Visit the incredible Acropolis in Athens, home to the iconic Parthenon, as well as the winding old streets of Plaka.
• Optional cruise to the 3 saronic Islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra in Greece.
DAY 1 Depart for Turkey
Depart for Turkey

DAY 2 Arrive in Istanbul (D)
Arrive in Istanbul, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and transfer to your hotel. Balance of the day is at leisure.

DAY 3 Istanbul (B,D)
Spend your day delving into a Istanbul the only city that straddles two continents, where modern and ancient coexist. Your tour includes a short briefing and the picture stop at the courtyard of the Blue Mosque, a 17th century Ottoman Mosque famous for its six minarets and magnificent interior made of blue tiles. Continue to the Hippodrome, an ancient Grecian stadium for horse racing and chariot racing during the Roman period. Then, gain insights into the Ottoman Empire’s power during your guided tour of the Topkapi Palace and see the 4th century Egyptian obelisk. This afternoon join the optional tour Half Day Istanbul with St. Sophia (USD$45). This tour’s highlights include the Underground Cistern - water source of the Byzantine and Ottoman periods, the largest of its kind in Istanbul, the structure’s interior includes a few hundred marble columns. Then visit Byzantine basilica, St. Sophia where 30 million gold tesserae (tiny mosaic tiles) create stunning mosaics and and the great calligraphic panes line the interior. It remained the largest cathedral in the world for almost a thousand years, it was later converted to a mosque and now serves as a museum.

DAY 4 Istanbul - Troy - Canakkale (B,D)
This morning, proceed to the classical city of Troy. Explore the legends of Troy and see the symbolic replica of the famous Wooden Horse that the Greeks used to break their siege of this ancient city. Afterwards, continue to the Canakkale province, located in northwest Turkey, where you will arrive in the evening.

DAY 5 Canakkale - Kusadasi (B,D) 
After breakfast, proceed to Kusadasi which over 3500 years of history, the port city known historically as Smyrna offers a variety of impressive archaeological sites. After arrival visit Asklepion, the ancient Roman spa centre. Then take a visit to the Leather factory where you can see the models wearing fashion popular leather walk show. They are pleased to offer you extensive collection with exclusive goods & services.

DAY 6 Kusadasi (B)
Enjoy a full day at leisure in Kusadasi. Perhaps, relax in the city and sip Türk kahvesi, authentic Turkish coffee, at a café set along the scenic Pasaport Quay. Don’t miss the Optional tour to Ephesus with lunch (USD$69), considered one of the greatest ancient cities of the world. Here, you’ll meander through the ruins of the ancient Greek city of Ephesus, visit the House of the Virgin Mary, Basilica of St. John, the library of Celsus, temple of Hadrian, the theater and the Odeon.

DAY 7 Kusadasi - Pamukkale - Antalya (B,D)
Today, depart in the early morning from Kusadasi and drive to Pamukkale. Visit the Necropolis and the ancient city of Hierapolis (“Holy City”), a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city’s hot springs have drawn people since the 2nd century BCE as it is known for its healing and therapeutic properties. People with various health issues come to assuage their illnesses as it has been scientifically proven that the waters cure some diseases. Many of Hierapolis’ visitors choose to retire here. Next, you will visit Pamukkale, known as “The Cotton Castle” is best described as a calcium cascade of snowy white stalactites -reminiscent a frozen waterfall. It is recognized as the 8th wonder of the World by Turkish people.

DAY 8 Full Day in Antalya (B,D)
Morning transfer to Antalya. Founded by King Attalos of Pergamum as “Heaven on Earth,” Antalya is an international resort city that has become a prime destination in Turkey. Long popular among yachters, the city also offers the liveliest nightlife on the southern coast, fantastic beaches, and world-class shopping, in addition to historic ruins in the surrounding region. You may take a fascinating optional tour is offered to the Pamphylia city of Perge and to the ancient city of Aspendos and Antalya Museum with lunch (USD$69). Perge was founded in 13th century B.C. It is the most attractive and well preserved Pamphylia city. The ancient theater, stadium, towers, agora, Acropolis and the Palaestra which were given to Emperor Claudius are the highlights of the ancient city. Continue to Aspendos, founded in 1000 B.C. by the colonists from Argos. Though it is well-known for its theater with a capacity of 30,000 people, the city also boasts a stadium and a fountain. All the ruins in the city have remained from the Roman period and the theater is still being used for contemporary concerts. Later, return to Antalya and visit the Antalya Archaeological Museum which houses artifacts and antiques from 2500 years of Anatolian culture.

DAY 9 Antalya - Cappadocia (B,D)
Today, depart in the early morning to travel to Cappadocia. En route, visit the 13th-century Caravanserai of Sultanhan, a large abandoned city and shelter in Cappadocia, built on the Silk Road, whose main portal gate is considered a fine example of Turkish Seljuk art. Continue to Cappadocia. A region of surreal rock formations and incredible cultural heritage, Cappadocia is home to rock-cut temples, ancient underground cities, and unparalleled landscapes. Drive to the stunning Devrent Valley to visit its iconic volcanic cones. The thick clusters of rosy rock take on peculiar shapes—look for a dolphin, Napoleon’s hat, or the Virgin Mary as you gaze upon them. Your guide explains how the formations were
naturally carved before you move on. Tonight, be sure to attend the optional performance of the world-famous Whirling Dervishes (US$45). The ‘dance’ of the Whirling Dervishes is called Sema. It is part of Turkish custom, history, beliefs and culture and represents a man’s spiritual journey, and will be a highlight of your trip to Turkey.

DAY 10 Cappadocia (B,D)
Begin the day very early on an optional hot air balloon ride (US$250) that takes you soaring over the magnificent Cappadocian landscape with its incredible fairy chimney rock formations. The other-worldly landscapes of Cappadocia take centre stage today as we explore its volcanic landscape dotted with caves and troglodyte dwellings. Drive to Pasabag, also known as Monk’s Valley. Here, see the remarkable mushroom-shaped, chimney-like rock formations that monks used as shelters, and get the chance to climb inside one to visit the quarters within. Visit the Open Air Museum in Goreme Valley to see the early Christian churches decorated with unique frescos depicting various scenes from the Bible. Later, visit the Ozkonak Underground City. The city has many strata made up of volcanic granite. Its larger areas are connected to each other by tunnels. Ozkonak had a built-in communication system of pipes on each of its levels, unlike Kaymakli and Derinkuyu, which have no such systems. Each carved out room had ventilation provided by holes when the city was closed against enemies. Lastly, visit the village of Avanos that is famous for its beautiful old houses, pottery and onyx.

DAY 11 Cappadocia - Ankara (B,D)
This morning we started our visit with a demonstration of how silk cocoons are formed and saw how silk is reeled from the cocoons to make silk threads. You may find workers sitting on the floor in the next room are some women, with colorful scarfs, weaving their carpet. Afterwards, depart for Ankara, the capital and the second largest city of Turkey. Upon arrival, visit the Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk, founder and first president of the Turkish Republic. Leading up to the Mausoleum, view the vast brick courtyard and monumental avenue lined with Neo-Hittite stone statues and cenotaphs beneath its colonnades. The most noted cenotaphs within the complex are those of General Ismet Inonu, a close comrade of Ataturk’s and that of Ataturk himself, beneath which lies his tomb.

DAY 12 Return to Istanbul (B,D)
This morning return to Istanbul. Afternoon visit the Spice Market with its unforgettable aromas. Then continue to the Grand Bazaar, where you can shop for carpets, jewelry, leather and more. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure, exploring this city that blurs the line between East and West, with incredible architecture that is rivalled only by its spectacular natural setting on the Bosphorus Strait.

DAY 13 Istanbul - Athens (B,D)
Transfer to the airport for your onward flight to Athens. Upon arrival, meet in the arrival hall at the hotel. Overnight.

DAY 14 – Athens (B,D)
Breakfast in the hotel. Proceed on full day tour of the Greek capital. See Syntagma Square, the House of Parliament, the Memorial to the Unknown Soldier, the University and the National Library. See Hadrian’s Arch and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. Stop at the Pan Athenaic Stadium where the first Olympic Games of the modern era were held in 1896. Visit the world famous site of the Acropolis to see the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nikè, the Erechtheion and finally “the harmony between material and spirit”, the Parthenon. The tour completes with a visit to the Acropolis museum. Inside, see the treasures, icons and statues taken from the site in the new home. Completing, free at own leisure. Discover Plaka, the old quarter, with its array of cafes and shops. In the evening, dinner at a restaurant. Transfer back to the hotel. Overnight.

DAY 15 Athens (B,D)
Breakfast in the hotel. Full day free for leisure. Or join an optional tour (US$). Transfer to the port and embark on the full day cruise to the 3 saronic islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra. Lunch is included and served on board. At each island, get off the boat to discover each island’s own individual character. Aegina: The largest of the saronic islands, famous for pistachio nuts. Poros: a pretty island with chance for shopping. Hydra – an artist’s delight, again with boutiques, shops and cafes dotted around the harbour. On the return journey back to the port of Athens, enjoy the on board entertainment program. Meet at the port and transfer to a restaurant for dinner. Transfer back to the hotel. Overnight.

DAY 16 – Depart Athens for home city (B)
At designated time, transfer to the airport for flight back home.

Optional Tour
- Half Day Istanbul with St. Sophia (USD$45)
- Ephesus Tour with lunch (USD$69)
- Perga, Aspendos and Antalya Museum with lunch (USD$69)
- Performance of the Whirling Dervishes (USD$45)
- Hot air balloon ride (USD$250)
- Full-day Saronic cruise tour with lunch (USD$130)
Price Guide
- Prices are per person based on twin share accommodation
- Single and triple cabins are based on request.
- Add on airfare from other cities: Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Victoria $300, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Halifax, St. John $300, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec city $400
- Tour prices are subject to change without prior notice. Please check with your travel agent or our website for the latest information.

Escorted Package Includes
- International Airfare from Toronto in economy class
- Airport taxes($880)
- Flight from Istanbul to Athens
- 4-5 Star hotel accommodation
- Entrance fees to scenic attractions as indicated
- Services of English-speaking tour guides

Price Does Not Include
- Visa fees
- Insurance of any kind
- Gratuities (Suggested standard: $12 USD/day/person)
- Personal expenditure such as laundry service, souvenirs and telephone calls

2019

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