

Istanbul & the Turquoise Coast

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.
- Descend into the **underground city of Ozkonak** to explore its fascinating labyrinth of passageways and rooms.
- 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.
- 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 Yaliciitlik 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 two splendid gems: the ornately tiled Sultan Ahmed (Blue) Mosque and the awe-inspiring, sixth-century Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque. Stroll later within the bustling Grand Bazaar.

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 the 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 this renowned ancient city with your guide and admire the Great Theater, the Library of Celsus and mosaic-adorned houses.

Etrim. Enjoy a walk in this peaceful Anatolian mountain village and learn about enduring traditions like carpet and kilim weaving.

contd.

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



Eva Bellin is the Myra and Robert Kraft Professor of Arab Politics at Brandeis University, affiliated with the Department of Politics and the Crown Center for Middle East Studies. A comparativist, she focuses on

democratization, authoritarianism, civil society, and political reform. She teaches courses on the Middle East and North Africa, including contemporary Turkish politics. Bellin authored *Stalled Democracy*, co-edited *Building Rule of Law in the Arab World*, conducted fieldwork in the region, and holds degrees from Harvard (BA) and Princeton (PhD).

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.

Lycian Ruins of Kaunos. Marvel at the impressive, Greek-inspired temple tombs cut into the rugged cliffside during a guided tour at this archaeological site in Dalyan.

Enrichment

– Istanbul, The Crossroads of the World

UNESCO World Heritage

- Historic Areas of Istanbul
- Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia
- 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 Gulet Yacht
Ship's registry: Turkey



The information in this flyer is correct at the time of printing. Please visit our website to ensure that you receive the most current information.

2026



Ephesus

AHI Travel Expertise

For more than six decades, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

Travel & Air Coordinators | Help with everything from arranging flights to fulfilling 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.

2026 Departures & Pricing

May 3-13, 2026

Full Price from \$8,245

Special Savings \$750

Special Savings Price* from \$7,995

The Special Savings consist of \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.

*Special Savings Price is valid if booked by the expiration date on the website and paid in full at booking.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy, includes applicable program taxes and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single prices are available upon request (limited availability).

<https://brande.ahitravel.com/destinations/1948A?school-Id=276>