



ISTANBUL - Gems of Istanbul (ending at the airport)



5:00



95 €



moderate



motorcoach

Min10 / Max30
participants

History & Culture | Unesco | Airport transfer

This excursion ends at Istanbul airport (IST) and is suitable for guests with flights after 16:30.

Take the opportunity to discover beautiful Istanbul, where East meets West, the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire. As you travel, your guide will tell you about the history of the magnificent Constantinople, as it was once called. You will cross the Galata Bridge and proceed to the Suleymaniye Mosque for an inside visit. Next up is the ancient Hippodrome followed by a visit to the Yerebatan or Underground Cistern.

The cistern was built to supply water to the city of Istanbul during the reign of Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century. It is an underground chamber with 336 marble pillars supported by columns and arches. Two Medusa heads are used as pedestals at the base of two columns.

After this visit, you will proceed to the Grand Bazaar, located inside the walled city of Istanbul. It is one of the largest covered markets in the world with 4400 shops, 64 streets, 25,000 employees, 4 fountains, 2 mosques and 22 gates. Its construction began in the winter of 1455/56, shortly after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople.

You will have a few minutes free time to look around and then we will continue to the Hagia Sofia. This magnificent monument is one of the finest works of architecture in the world, so it is no surprise that it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was built in just five years (532-537 AD) on the orders of Emperor Justinian. For 900 years, Hagia Sophia was the centre of Orthodox Christianity until the city was conquered by the Ottomans in 1453. For the next 500 years it was used as the great mosque of the sultans. Its interior is decorated with marble columns and exquisite mosaics.

After this visit you can either collect your luggage from the coach and make your own way to your hotel (taxis are available) or continue by coach to Istanbul airport for your flight home.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on cobbled and uneven ground with some inclines and steps to negotiate. The order of the visits is subject to change.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. Appropriate clothing is required for visits to religious sites.

A drop off is also possible in the city center before the bus leaves for the airport.

ISTANBUL

Star Clippers also offers the following transfer services (optional, on request):

- Shared Transfer to Istanbul airport (IST).

Guests who have purchased a shared transfer cannot choose their own pick up time.

There is a fixed departure from the port at approximately 08:45.

This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight departs after 13:00.

- Private transfers to Istanbul airport (IST) or to hotels in Istanbul.

Pick up from the pier for private transfers is no later than 10:00.

Private transfers are operated by private cars (1-2 passengers) or private vans (3-4 passengers).

- Private transfers from hotels to the airport.

Private transfers are operated by private cars (1-2 passengers) or private vans (3-4 passengers).

This service can only be pre-booked.

Transfers can also be booked prior to your cruise. Bookings made onboard during the cruise are always subject to availability.

If you wish to book a private transfer, we recommend that you pre-book it well in advance prior to your cruise, as the number of vehicles may be limited at certain times of the year.

For information and reservations please contact our reservations department or your travel agent.

Ship will be alongside at Galataport Istanbul Cruise Ship Terminal, in Karaköy district, at approximately 5 km from the old town and 60 km distance from Istanbul International Airport (IST). All guests must leave the ship by 10:00am.