

# SHORE EXCURSIONS

**Guest:** Mr Jeffrey Guard

**Booking Number:** 7722017

## ❖ Istanbul

### TRIST02 Turkey's Most Amazing Edifices

Duration: 5.00 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 08:00 AM Available, 08:15 AM Available

**Explore the “Blue Mosque” and Topkapi Palace** -- Visit three of Istanbul's most impressive and legendary landmarks on this awe-inspiring excursion. At the iconic Sultan Ahmed Mosque, or “Blue Mosque,” you can marvel at slender minarets and a cascade of domes, one of Istanbul's most recognizable sights. With your guide, explore its lavish interior, decorated with the blue Iznik tiles that give the building its nickname. Visit the huge fortified complex of Topkapi Palace to glimpse the lives of sultans. Once the epicenter of the Ottoman Empire, it is now home to spectacular treasures. Walk through the gardens and see some of the historic riches on display. You will also browse the largest covered market in the world, the Grand Bazaar, whose narrow passageways play host to more than 3,000 cafés and shops. At one of its carpet shops, you can see how Turkish carpets are made. You will have time for shopping before returning to your ship. Please note: On Sundays, a part of the Grand Bazaar is closed.

### TRIST16 Istanbul Cityscape

Duration: 3.25 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 08:15 AM Available, 08:30 AM Available, 08:45 AM Sold Out, 01:15 PM Available

**Old City Walls, Spice Market and Rüstem Pasha Mosque** -- Journey into the heart of Istanbul, visiting a beautifully tiled, seldom-seen mosque and the bustling Spice Bazaar. Join your guide for a scenic drive along the ancient Walls of Constantinople, a UNESCO World Heritage Site containing portions that date from the 4th century. You will stop at the Rüstem Pasha Mosque, built in 1561. This is one of the city's hidden treasures, often ignored in favor of the “Blue Mosque” that towers beside it. Inside, you will find exquisitely colored Iznik tiles of blue, red, green and purple covering the entrance, the pulpit (minbar) and its columns. This is the most richly tiled mosque in Istanbul; its facade is similarly decorated. Then, travel to the famous Spice Bazaar, where its mix of colors and scents will enchant your senses as you explore the vendor stalls and take time to mingle with locals shopping for exotic spices. After, return to your ship.

### TRIST03 Panoramic Istanbul

Duration: 5.00 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 08:30 AM Available

**An Introduction to the Beauty of Istanbul** -- Explore the Asian and European sides of Istanbul on this panoramic drive and enriching tour. You will enjoy breathtaking vistas at every turn. Along the Bosphorus Strait, stop for photos of Istanbul's majestic Old City, a stunning vision of minarets and domes. On the European side of the strait, visit the magnificent Hagia Sophia, built as a cathedral and later converted into a mosque. Today this enlightening museum is laden with beautiful mosaics and frescoes. At the Grand Bazaar, the largest covered market in the world, explore narrow passageways lined with more than 3,000 cafés and shops. Visit one shopkeeper to see how his richly decorated Turkish carpets are made. After some free time for shopping among the bazaar's many colorful stalls, return to your ship.

### TRIST17 Scenic Beauty & Culture of Istanbul

Duration: 6.25 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 09:00 AM Available

**Bosphorus Cruise, Beyazit Mosque & Sahaflar Çarsisi** -- Admire Istanbul from the waters of the Bosphorus Strait and explore two of its cultural landmarks. Meet your guide and set off on foot along the bustling banks of the Bosphorus Strait en route to boarding a local sightseeing boat for a scenic cruise along this historic waterway that separates two continents. Sail past traditional wooden villas, 19th-century Ottoman palaces and Rumeli Fortress, a medieval hilltop fortification. Stop for a delicious Turkish-style breakfast on shore before continuing your cruise. Later, disembark your boat in the port of Eminönü and transfer to the historic Beyazit Mosque, a beautiful example of Ottoman architecture. Cap your tour at the Sahaflar Çarsisi, a renowned secondhand book market. Enjoy time browsing this haven for book lovers, among a treasure trove of old texts and manuscripts, before returning to your ship.

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## TRIST18 Islamic Arts & Ebru Workshop

Duration: 4.00 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 09:15 AM Available

**History, Artistic Heritage and Traditions of Turkey** -- Delve into the centuries-old traditions of Turkish Islamic art and enjoy a hands-on painting workshop. Travel to the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum, set within the Caferaga Medrese, an enchanting example of Ottoman architecture. Explore its collection of calligraphy, illuminated manuscripts, intricately designed ceramics, extravagant textiles and exquisite jewelry. Admire the museum's halls adorned with masterful geometric patterns, vibrant tiles and intricate arabesques that reflect Turkey's cultural heritage. After, journey into the world of Ebru, the traditional Turkish art of paper marbling and listed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. You will receive an introduction on how to select colors and create intricate designs in water before transferring them onto paper. Then, follow the guidance of a knowledgeable artisan as you create your own artwork as a memento.

## TRIST19 Istanbul on Foot & Baklava

Duration: 5.25 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 09:15 AM Available

**Iconic Landmarks, Turkish Delights and Dessert Workshop** -- Discover notable Istanbul landmarks, indulge in a taste of local favorites and learn to make baklava. Follow your guide on foot to visit the Nusretiye Mosque, a masterpiece of Ottoman architecture, and the Kılıç Ali Pasa Mosque, a striking blend of architectural brilliance and maritime history. Immerse yourself in the tranquil atmosphere of these mosques and marvel at the unique elements that make them true cultural treasures. At the Tophane Clock Tower, learn about its fascinating history and enjoy panoramic views of the city from above. Begin the culinary portion of your tour at a beloved deli, featuring an array of Turkish delicacies, to savor authentic flavors, including mezes, olives, cheeses and pastries. Then, walk to an iconic bakery for a hands-on opportunity to learn the art of making baklava, followed by a taste of this delicious treat. After, return to your ship.

## TRIST04 Beautiful Istanbul & a Traditional Turkish Bath

Duration: 4.50 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 12:00 PM Available

**Enjoy a Walking Tour of Old Istanbul and a Hammam Treatment** -- Indulge your senses on a walking tour of Istanbul, then partake in a centuries-old Turkish tradition at a hammam. With your local guide, you will walk across the old Galata Bridge that spans the Golden Horn inlet. Magnificent views accompany you as you cross. In the Old City, stop in the Strawmat Weavers Market and gaze upon the facade of the 16th-century Rüstem Pasha Mosque. Follow your nose to the famous Spice Bazaar and take time to mingle with locals shopping for colorful exotic spices. You will also savor an unforgettable spa treatment at a traditional hammam. Leave your belongings in a locker, don a traditional cotton wrap and step into your male or female steam room. There, you will stretch out on a warm marble table and an attendant will exfoliate your skin, smother you in bubbles and escort you to a soaking bath dressed in a sarong.

## TRIST14 Dinner Cruise on the Bosphorus Strait

Duration: 3.50 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 08:00 PM Available

**A Traditional Turkish Evening** -- Savor a traditional Turkish dinner as you take in the twinkling lights that line the Bosphorus Strait. A busy trade route for centuries, the strait was once filled with old-world ships delivering spices and other wares to the city's markets. Today, with Europe on one bank and Asia on the other, it remains an important international crossroads that has shaped the character of one of the world's great cities. Meet your guide and transfer to your berth, where you will board your motorboat. As you cruise, you will delight at the enchanting views over Istanbul's cityscape and the city's grand monuments in their illuminated glory. Enjoy an evening of traditional song and dance while sampling a selection of delicious Turkish fare full of the rich flavors inherent to this tasty cuisine. After dinner, sit back and relax with a drink during the return to your awaiting ship.

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## TRIST05 An Evening at the Hammam with Music of the Sultans

Duration: 2.50 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 08:15 PM Available

8.15

**A Relaxing and Cleansing Trip to a Traditional Turkish Bath** -- Experience firsthand taking a spa at a hammam, or Turkish bath, a long and cherished tradition in Turkish culture. Transfer from your ship to one of Istanbul's leading baths, where a bath attendant will welcome you and explain the procedure. You will be provided a locker in which to secure your belongings. Donning a traditional cotton wrap, proceed into your male or female steam room, where you can stretch out on a warm marble table and relax. An attendant will vigorously exfoliate your skin and smother you in bubbles. Then enjoy a soak in one of the baths. During your visit, you will be entranced by the sounds of the sultans as Ottoman rhythms transport you to the golden era of the Ottoman Empire. You will return to your ship in time for dinner on board.

## TRIST15 Panoramic Istanbul by Night

Duration: 2.00 Hours



Date: December 22, 2024 08:30 PM Available

**Witness Istanbul's Grand Sights After Dark** -- Experience Istanbul, the city where "East meets West," in all its illuminated glory during a scenic drive and walk. Meet your guide and embark on a scenic journey through the streets of Istanbul. In the heart of the Old Town, cross the Galata Bridge and view the Sea Walls of Constantinople, the city's defensive stone walls that have protected Istanbul since the 4th century, running from the Sea of Marmara to the Golden Horn. Continue on foot, admiring the towering domes and minarets of the "Blue Mosque," named after its ornate blue-color tiled interior. Pause for photos and head to the Hippodrome of Constantinople; now a tranquil park, it was once the social hub of the city, hosting horse and chariot racing. Cap your time here with views of the facade of the majestic Hagia Sophia, considered the world's finest example of Byzantine architecture. Then, return to your ship via motor coach.