

# Ancient and Classical Turkey

Hotel-to-hotel lower  guided walking and sightseeing

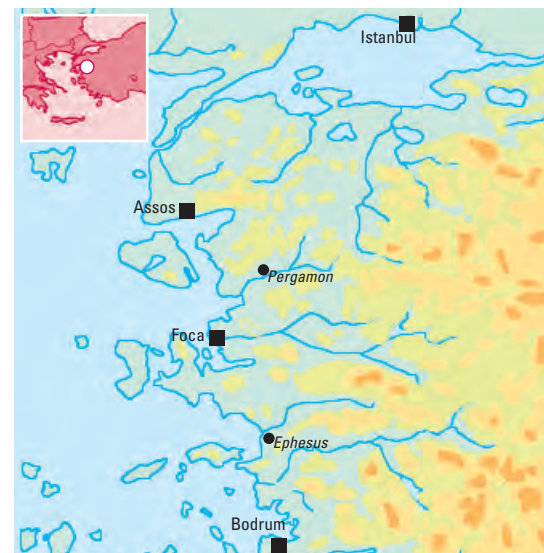
- Glorious mix of gentle strolls and sightseeing, with expert archaeological walking guide
- Fascinating historic sites: Cultural Capital Istanbul, legendary Troy and ancient Ephesus
- Colorful bazaars, bustling fish markets, lively harbour fronts
- Lovely hotels - private swimming pools at Assos and Bodrum



This gentle walking and sightseeing holiday takes you to the best of Turkey's archaeological sites. Our tour begins in Istanbul or Constantinople – once both Emperor Constantius' "New Rome" and the glittering Ottoman capital of mosques and minarets. Here we'll visit the incomparable Blue Mosque, Moorish Topkapi Palace and explore the colorful bazaars and bustling fish markets. By ferry across the Sea of Marmara, we drive along the Aegean Coast to legendary Troy. Heading inland via the ancient hilltop city of Pergamon we reach Ephesus. The most well preserved ancient city after Pompeii, its Temple of Artemis was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Our tour then winds back towards the coast past the monumental Temple of Apollo at Didyma whose mighty marble columns have remained standing since antiquity to finish in the elegant harbour town of Bodrum - site of King Mausolus' tomb, the Mausoleum – and another wonder of the ancient world.

Traveling at a leisurely pace with an expert archaeological and walking guide, we combine visits to these famous sites with some gentle walks. At Troy, we stroll along a coastal path that offers incomparable views over the Gallipoli peninsula. In the hills above Ephesus, we wind through olive and almond groves to discover the whitewashed village of Sirince. Near Didyma, we follow a limestone path bright with heliotropes and narcissus by Lake Bafa where we may spot flamingos and herons.

All the hotels we stay in along the way have their own charm. But favorites have to be our converted stone warehouse in the ancient Greek harbour of Assos and our elegant hillside hotel in Bodrum that enjoys stunning castle views from its infinity swimming pool.



Book now on 1-800-567-6286 or visit [www.breakaway-adventures.com](http://www.breakaway-adventures.com) for more information

## ANCIENT AND CLASSICAL TURKEY | DAY BY DAY

### Day 1 Arrive in Istanbul

We take you to the hotel (20mins) in time for dinner. You spend three nights here.

### Days 2/3 Exploring Istanbul

First stop is the Blue Mosque and 1,500 year old Hagia Sophia church. After lunch by the Byzantine cistern, our guide leads us through the avenues of bales of silk, gold trinkets and colorful spices of the Grand Bazaar. The next day we visit Topkapi Palace – a real “Arabian Night’s Dream” with its harem and fabulous treasury. In the afternoon, we take a river cruise along the Bosphorous, lined with imposing 19C summer palaces. Returning, we admire the late Byzantine frescoes at Kariye church, before our final dinner in Istanbul.

### Day 4 Troy and the Gallipoli Peninsula 8km/5mi/2hr

By ferry boat across the Marmara Sea, and along to the Dardanelle strait (90mins). After lunch, we follow a rosemary-scented coastal path that overlooks the Gallipoli peninsula, site of the famous WW1 battle. Then on to Troy, immortalised by Homer for a more ancient battle. After visiting the site, we move to Assos, our base for the next two nights, and dinner at our harbor front hotel.

### Day 5 At Assos 9km/5.5mi/4hr

Gently ascending through olive and pistachio trees we reach Assos’s ancient citadel with its theatre, gymnasium and bathhouse. Then an ancient paved way lined with sarcophagi affords stunning views over the watery remains of Assos’s Greco-Roman harbor.

### Day 6 Pergamon

A brief stroll, this morning, to the Altar of Zeus for great Aegean coast views before arriving at Pergamon. This ancient Greek city’s library was second only to that of Alexandria. Descending from the theatre we enjoy sweeping valley views as we reach the cobbled streets of the modern town where people still travel by horse and cart. Then on to Foca, where we spend one night.

### Day 7 Sardis and Bozdag 4km/3mi/2hr

Heading inland, we visit the imposing site of Sardis, then a scenic drive to lunch in a mountain restaurant above Bozdag. Afterwards, we descend along a panoramic forest trail bright with crocuses into the village itself. We then move on to Nilgan’s friendly hotel at Selçuk (modern town of Ephesus) where we spend the next two nights.

### Day 8 Ephesus 4km/3mi/2hr

We dedicate the morning to Ephesus, whose marbled streets reveal agorae, bathhouses, a theatre and the Library of Celsus. After lunch in the whitewashed village of Sirince, our walk takes us through almond trees for incomparable views back over the village surrounded by olive studded hills.

### Day 9 Didyma and Lake Bafa 8km/5mi/3hr

Leaving Ephesus, we visit Didyma’s Temple of Apollo before arriving at Lake Bafa for lunch. This afternoon’s walk winds through the semi-ruined Greek city of Herakleia, built into ochre colored limestone boulders, then drops down to the lakeshore where flamingos and herons fish. We reach coastal Bodrum, where we spend our final two nights, in time for dinner.

### Day 10 Exploring Bodrum

We explore Bodrum’s cobbled backstreets that reveal a Greek theatre, city gate and the famous Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, once one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. We then head down to the harbour and the Knights’ Templar Castle. Lunch in the castle grounds, explore the old town, then back for an afternoon by the hotel’s infinity pool before our farewell dinner.

### Day 11 Return home



## Dates and Prices

Departs selected Fridays	Tour Only
2012 departures	
Apr 27, Oct 12	\$3,698
May 11, Sep 28	\$3,554
May 25, Sep 14	\$3,769

**Singles:** Add \$104 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.  
**Child:** This holiday is unsuitable for children under 12.

**Holiday type:** Guided walking and sightseeing, hotel-to-hotel, groups of typically 6-16 people on each tour.

**Departs:** Selected Fridays from Apr 27 to Oct 12.

**Duration:** 11 days (10 nights).

**Meals:** Continental breakfast, 3 lunches and 5 evening meals.

**Other details:** For “What your holiday price includes,” see “Holiday Planning” section pp 48-51.

## Tailor-made travel choices

**Nearest Arrival Airport:** Istanbul Ataturk Airport

**Nearest Departure Airport:** Bodrum Milas Airport

**Note:** Different arrival and departure airports on this holiday.

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

**The above prices include our standard transfers:** Istanbul Ataturk Airport at 17:15, (transfer to hotel, 20 mins, provided). **Return:** Bodrum Milas Airport by 11:15 (transfer provided).

**Tour only:** Transfers included from Istanbul Ataturk airport at 17:15, and back to Bodrum Milas airport departing hotel at 10:00.

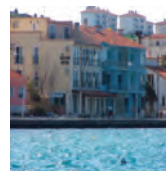
## ANCIENT AND CLASSICAL TURKEY | WHERE YOU STAY



**Hotel Avicenna**  
●●●●



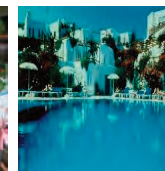
**Hotel Kervansaray**  
★★★★



**Hotel Kalyon**  
●●●●



**Nilya Pension**  
●●●●



**Antique Theatre Hotel**  
●●●●

Istanbul Days 1+2+3 Assos Days 4+5 Foca Day 6 Selçuk Days 7+8 Bodrum Days 9+10

For extra nights we recommend Bodrum or Istanbul.

## ANCIENT AND CLASSICAL TURKEY | WALKING DETAILS

This holiday includes some gentle strolls along coastal paths and forest trails. The descent to Pergamon (day 6) may be considered challenging if prone to vertigo or for those with weaker knees. Walking boots are recommended.



**Average daytime temperature (°C):**

19 23 27 27 21  
APR MAY JUN SEP OCT



**Average monthly rainfall (mm):**

45 26 10 19 35  
APR MAY JUN SEP OCT

W10TG