



# Turkey Cultural Discovery Private Adventure

8 Days



*The Adventure Company* | EST. 1969

**MT·SOBEK**<sup>™</sup>  
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK


**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**  
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

# ➤ Turkey Cultural Discovery Private Adventure

Venture across Turkey, a treasure trove of marvelous landscapes and architectural wonders. In Istanbul, at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, boat along the Bosphorus, then fly to moon-like Cappadocia famed for rock formations named Fairy Chimneys and ten-story deep underground cities carved from volcanic tufa. Tour the museum of Konya and shop flavorful spices at Istanbul's bustling Spice Bazaar. From celebrated Hagia Sophia and the stunningly decorated Blue Mosque to the mesmerizing spins of whirling dervishes, this adventure takes in the best of Turkey's rich cultural heritage.

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## Details

Arrive:	Istanbul, Turkey
Depart:	Istanbul, Turkey
Duration:	8 Days
Group Size:	2-10 Guests
Minimum Age:	14 Years Old
Activity Level:	

## Testimonials

*"Great experience every time with some of the most knowledgeable guides in their fields. We always come home with wonderful memories of the people we meet and things we see."*

Bob J.

*"I've taken six MT Sobek trips and they have all exceeded my expectations. The staff, the food, the logistics and the communications have always been exceptional. Thank you for being my "go to" adventure travel company!"*

Margaret I.

**GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.**

 1-800-974-0300

 [info@mtsobek.com](mailto:info@mtsobek.com)

## Why Take This Trip With Us?

### REASON #01

MT Sobek has been creating immersive cultural adventures for 50 years and we've been exploring Turkey for decades!

### REASON #02

Our local expert guides, whom we have worked with for over 20 years, will help you get to the heart of Turkey, revealing insider knowledge and going deeper in just 8 days.

### REASON #03

This trip features a private ceremonial performance of whirling dervishes and visits UNESCO-listed wonders in Cappadocia and Istanbul.

## What to Expect



### ACTIVITIES

Guided city walks, bazaar strolls, museum visits, scenic drives, boat trips, and taking in a private ceremonial performance of whirling dervishes.



### LODGING

A luxury city retreat in Istanbul as the bookend, a stylish hideaway housed in restored ancient dwellings in Cappadocia, and a well-appointed upscale hotel in Konya.



### CLIMATE

Summers are hot and dry, with temperatures generally around or above 86°F in the day.

## Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Betul is a native of Turkey with a BA in Classical Archaeology from Ege University and an MA in History of Art from Istanbul Technical University. Her studies allowed her to participate in numerous museum and excavation projects, including working as an archaeologist for Istanbul's largest railway project. Her passion for Turkish history and art led her to become a tour guide and share her knowledge with others. Now she looks forward to sharing Turkey with you!

**Betul Basak**

Mesuthan is a graduate of Balikesir University's Department of Tourism for Tourist Guides, and is MT Sobek's foremost Turkish authority for hiking, exploration, and culture. He is widely regarded as one of our favorite guides and has a wonderful demeanor with tremendous leadership qualities. His latest notable adventure was summiting Mt. Ararat with fellow MT Sobek legend Sergio Fitch-Watkins! Mesuthan is looking forward to leading exciting MT Sobek adventures in Turkey.

**Mesuthan Ozgen**

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# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### ARRIVE IN ISTANBUL

Arrive any time today and meet an MT Sobek representative at Istanbul airport for a transfer to the hotel. Spend the rest of the day exploring the city on your own or simply relaxing before the welcome dinner this evening.

**Meals:** D

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## DAY 2

### VISIT THE OLD TOWN & CRUISE THE BOSPHORUS

Start the day by discovering the highlights of the ancient Hippodrome, including the Egyptian Obelisk and the Serpentine Column. Visit the spectacular Hagia Sophia, a mosque (if permitted this day). After lunch at a local restaurant, walk through the vibrant streets of the old town to catch a private boat along the Bosphorus for a 1.5-hour scenic cruise. Back on land, wander through the 17th-century Spice Bazaar and its colorful stalls filled with spices, herbal teas, and saffron. Return to the hotel on foot or by public tram.

**Activity:** 1.5 hour Bosphorus cruise

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 3

### EXPLORE THE BLUE MOSQUE, THE TOPKAPI PALACE & GRAND BAZAAR

Today visit the 17th-century Blue Mosque, famed for the beautiful blue tiles decorating its interior walls and for its six minarets. Continue with the Topkapi Palace, former residence of the Ottoman sultans for about 400 years. See the Harem section, a palace inside the Topkapi, to hear about the history of eunuchs and concubines. After lunch at a nearby restaurant, explore the buzzy streets of the Grand Bazaar, a 15th-century covered market with 90 alleyways. Roam around for unique souvenirs and walk back to the hotel. Enjoy dinner on your own.

**Meals:** B, L

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## DAY 4

### DISCOVER THE LANDSCAPES OF CAPPADOCIA

Take a morning flight to Kayseri in Cappadocia and take the 1-hour transfer to one of the world's most spectacular and surreal areas. Explore this moon-like landscape with bizarre natural formations, such as pyramid-shaped rocks. Check into the hotel, have a traditional lunch, and then head out to visit one of the underground cities carved from volcanic tufa to a depth of eight to ten stories. Drive to a clutch of valleys for panoramic views, have a brief walk in the Love Valley and — at an additional cost — a hot air balloon ride.

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 5

### SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF CAPPADOCIA

Start the day by visiting the majestic Goreme Valley and its open-air museum that features rock-hewn sanctuaries with well-preserved frescoes. Stop by one of the clay workshops to see how pottery is produced using ancient methods. After lunch at a local restaurant, walk up to Uchisar Castle with its dazzling panoramic view of the Cappadocia region, and walk around the incredible pointed rock formations known as the Fairy Chimneys.

**Activity:** 1.5 hours walking

**Meals:** B, L

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## DAY 6

### EXPLORE KONYA, THE LAND OF WHIRLING DERVISHES

Take a morning drive to Konya, with a stop on the way at the 13th-century Seljuk Caravanserai — once the largest rest stop in Anatolia for the Silk Road caravans. In the holy city of Konya, have lunch at a local restaurant and then visit the Shrine of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, famous poet, and the Karatay Madrasa Museum with its magnificent collection of brilliantly colored glazed tiles. Tonight, attend a private ceremonial performance of whirling dervishes, a spiritual dance that has been practiced since the 13th century.

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 7

### MARVEL AT KONYA & FLY BACK TO ISTANBUL

Start the morning with a short walk through the city and visit the Konya Ethnography Museum with its collection of handicrafts from Konya and its surroundings. Tour the Archaeological Museum, which houses a variety of finds like Chalcolithic terracotta jars, Hittite hieroglyphs, and a grape-shaped Assyrian oil lamp. Walk through the bazaar, have lunch, and then transfer to Konya airport in the early afternoon to fly back to Istanbul. Meet an MTS representative upon arrival, and transfer to the hotel for the last overnight in Istanbul.

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 8

### DEPART FROM ISTANBUL

This morning after breakfast, take the transfer from the hotel to Istanbul airport for your homebound flight.

**Meals:** B

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## Dates

For full terms and conditions please visit [www.mtsobek.com/terms](http://www.mtsobek.com/terms). Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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## Inclusions & Exclusions

### PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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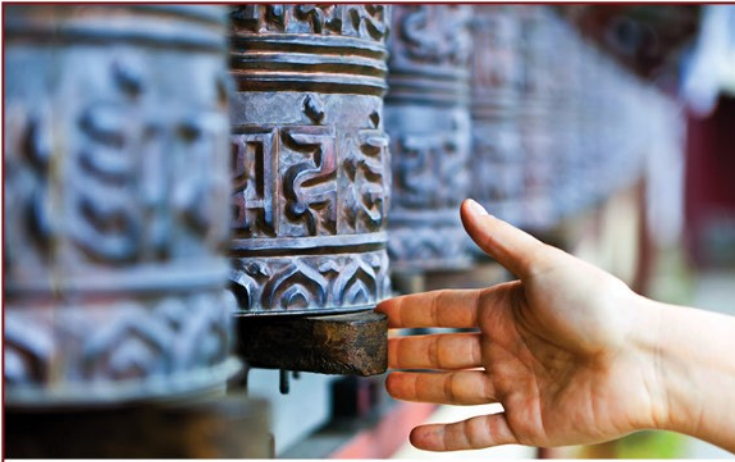


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## ➤ **The World of MT Sobek**

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

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### **Awards**



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**A WORLD OF DISCOVERY.**

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