TÜRKİYE

THROUGH PALATIAL DOORS

– A 10-Day Trip of a Lifetime Designed for –

The Schusteman Family

Think you've seen Türkiye all?
We promise, you haven't – yet.

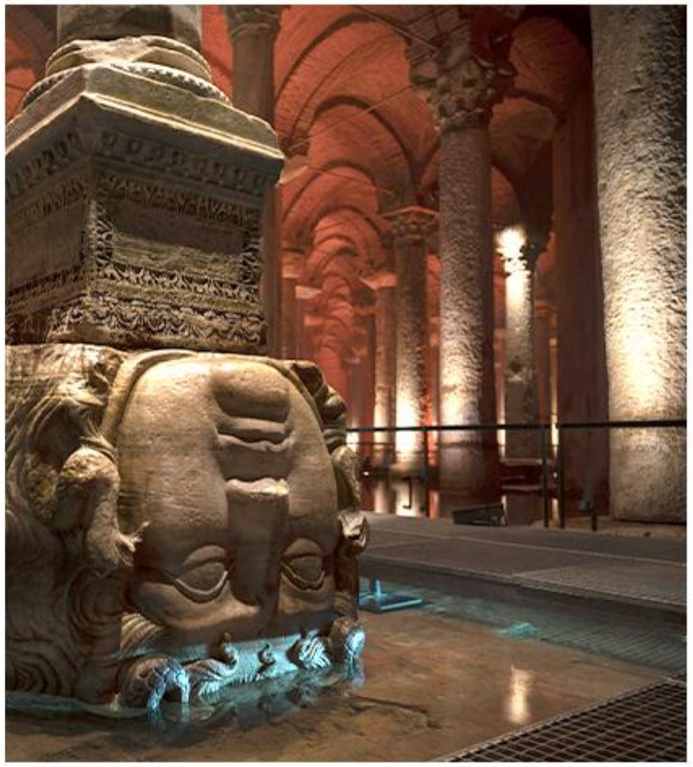
SIGHTSEEIST

WELCOME TO THE IMPERIAL CITY

Istanbul



This expedition offers 5 iconic Turkish destinations in a single itinerary. Istanbul, Cappadocia , Bodrum, Ephesus and Pamukkale.







YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS...

DAY 1: Arrive Istanbul, Turkiye

Arrive in Istanbul Airport, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. Upon arrival to the hotel enjoy a welcome cocktail and check in.

Overnight in Istanbul.

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Clockwise from bottom:
Basilica Cistern
Ortakoy, Bosphorus
Bosphorus
Opposite page:
St. Sophia

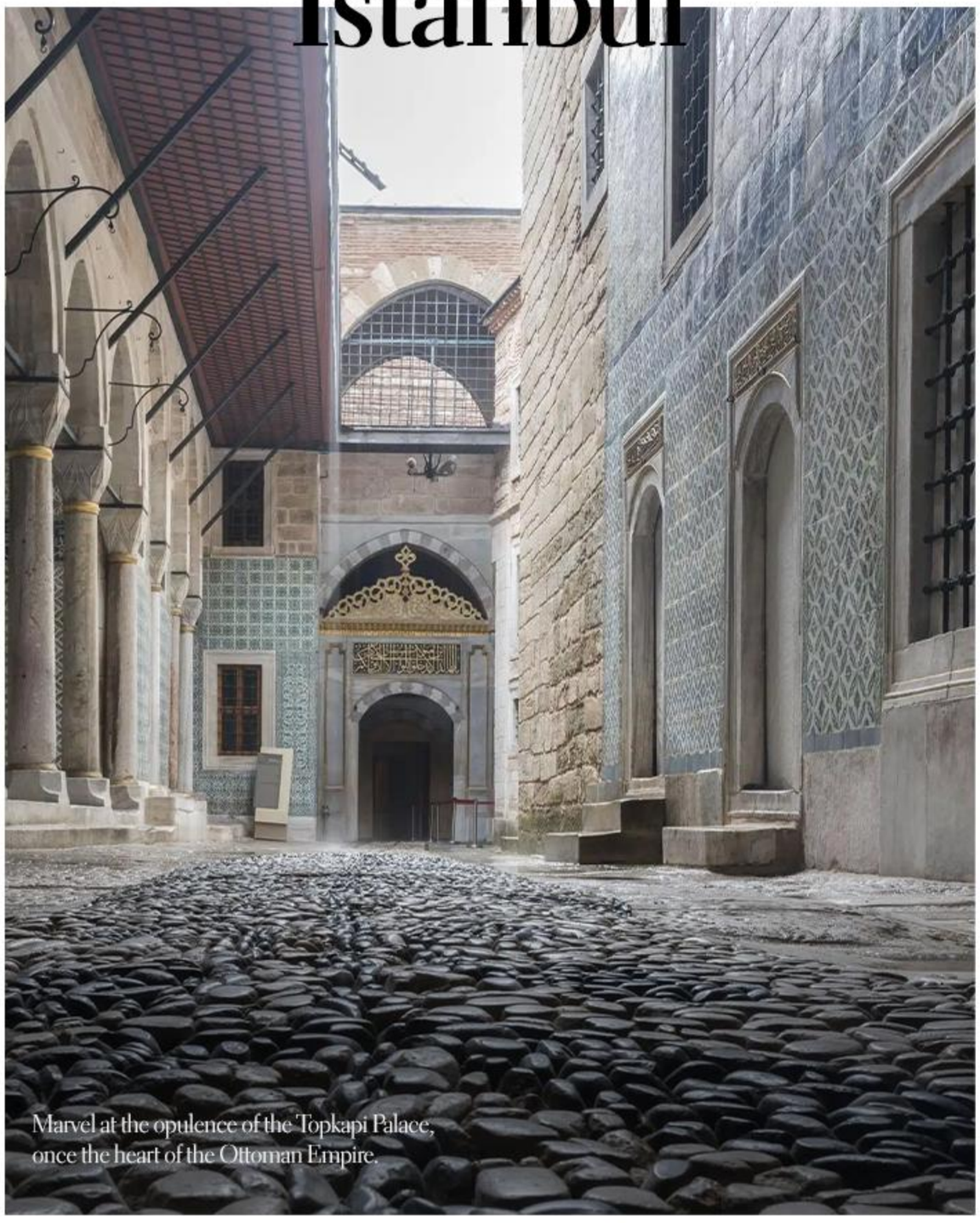
SIGHTSEEIST MOMENT

Embark on a private motor yacht to enjoy a **lively welcome dinner cruise on the Bosphorus**. Passing along the shores of the Bosphorus you will view magnificent palaces, Ottoman villas, impressive fortresses and the waterside residences of Istanbul.

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CLASSIC

Istanbul



Marvel at the opulence of the Topkapi Palace, once the heart of the Ottoman Empire.

CLASSIC ISTANBUL

DAY 2 : Classic Istanbul, Old City

Enjoy a privately guided exploration of the heart of Istanbul.

After breakfast, you will meet your professional guide at the hotel lobby for your private full day experience. Your private tour of Istanbul begins with a visit to the **Hippodrome**, which was the largest chariot race ground of the Byzantine Empire.

Visit the 16th Century palace of the Sultan's Grand Vizier, Ibrahim Pasa, which today houses the **Turkish & Islamic Arts Museum**, then you will take a short walk to the **Sultanahmet Mosque**, a triumph of harmony, proportion and elegance. The blue Iznik tiles covering the walls have given the mosque its popular name, **Blue Mosque**.

Next you will see the **Underground (Basilica) Cistern** its marble columns still standing since the sixth century.

Then continue to the timeless **Hagia Sophia**. Marvel at the structure's imposing facade, matched only by the grandeur of its vaulted ceilings.

After your lunch, you will visit the magnificient **Topkapi Palace**, the imperial residence of Ottoman sultans for almost 3 centuries.
In the Treasury section, you will see breathtaking displays, including the 7th largest diamond in the world, the "Spoonmaker's Diamond".
As you enter the **Harem** section you will feel how the sultan's lived in a most magnificant residence.

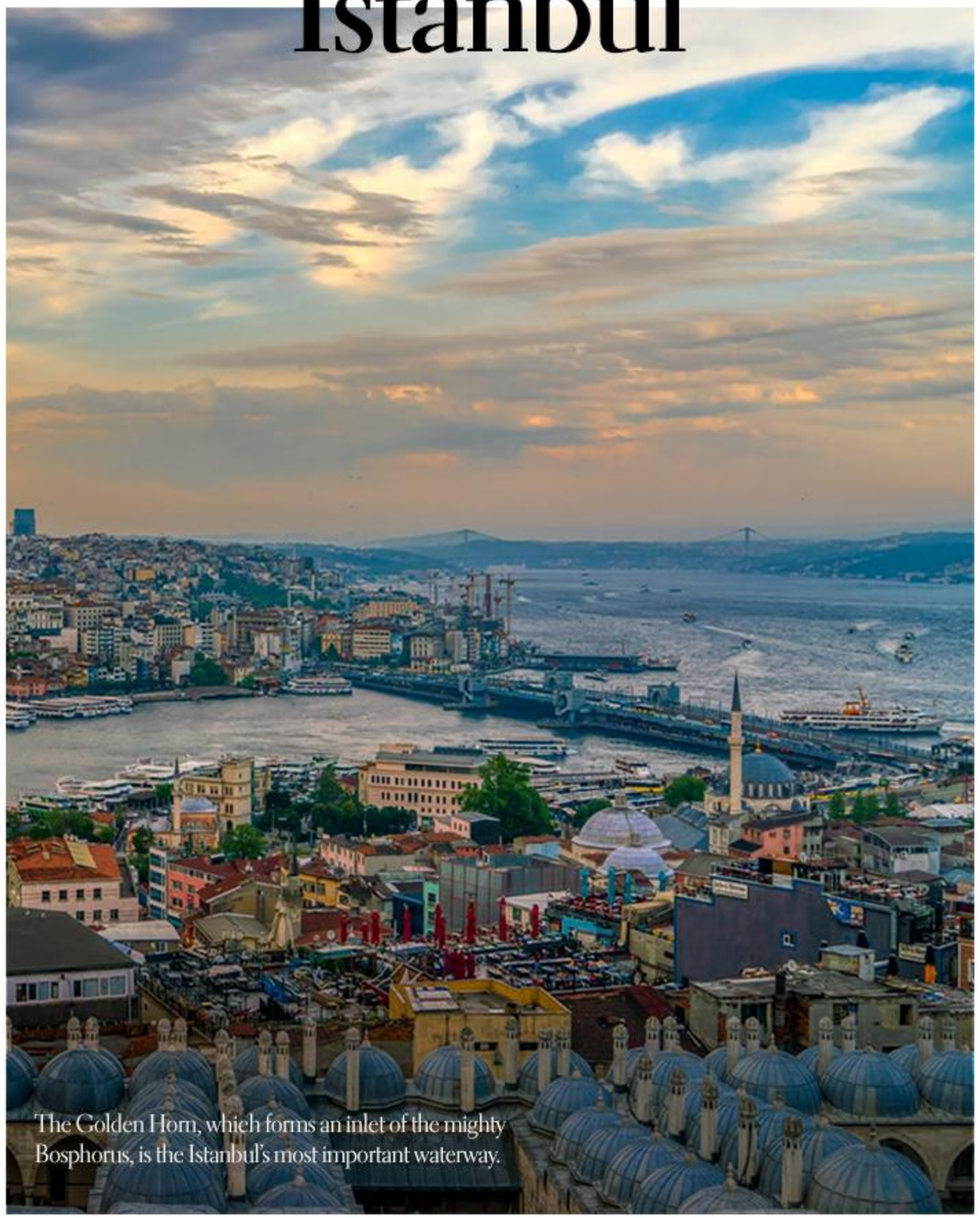
Last you will visit the **Egyptian Bazaar**, also know as the **Spice Market**, the second largest covered market in Istanbul, the best place to buy Turkish delight, dried fruit, exotic spices and herbs.

At the end of your day, you will return to your hotel with a stop for a yummy **baklava tasting** !



GOLDEN HORN TO GRAND BAZAAR

Istanbul



The Golden Horn, which forms an inlet of the mighty Bosphorus, is the Istanbul's most important waterway.

DAY 3 : After breakfast, you will meet your professional guide at the hotel lobby for another private full day experience.

Start with a panoramic visit to **Golden Horn**. See **Sveti Stefan Bulgarian Orthodox Church**, also known as **Iron Church**, and **Ecumenical Patriarchate of Greek / Eastern Orthodox Church**. Then continue to **Mosque of Suleyman the Magnificent**, built by the great Ottoman architect Mimar Sinan, and one of the largest mosques in the city.

Then explore the twists and turns of the bustling 15th-century **Grand Bazaar,** dipping in and out of its 4000-plus shops on the hunt for unique gifts and souvenirs – from traditional Turkish carpets to hand-painted ceramics and delicate gold jewellery.

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Clockwise from bottom:
Turkish Carpets
Grand Bazaar
A scene from the Skyfall at Grand Bazaar
Opposite page:
Golden Horn, The Mosque of Suleyman the Magnificent



ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE
Enjoy a unique perspective on Istanbul

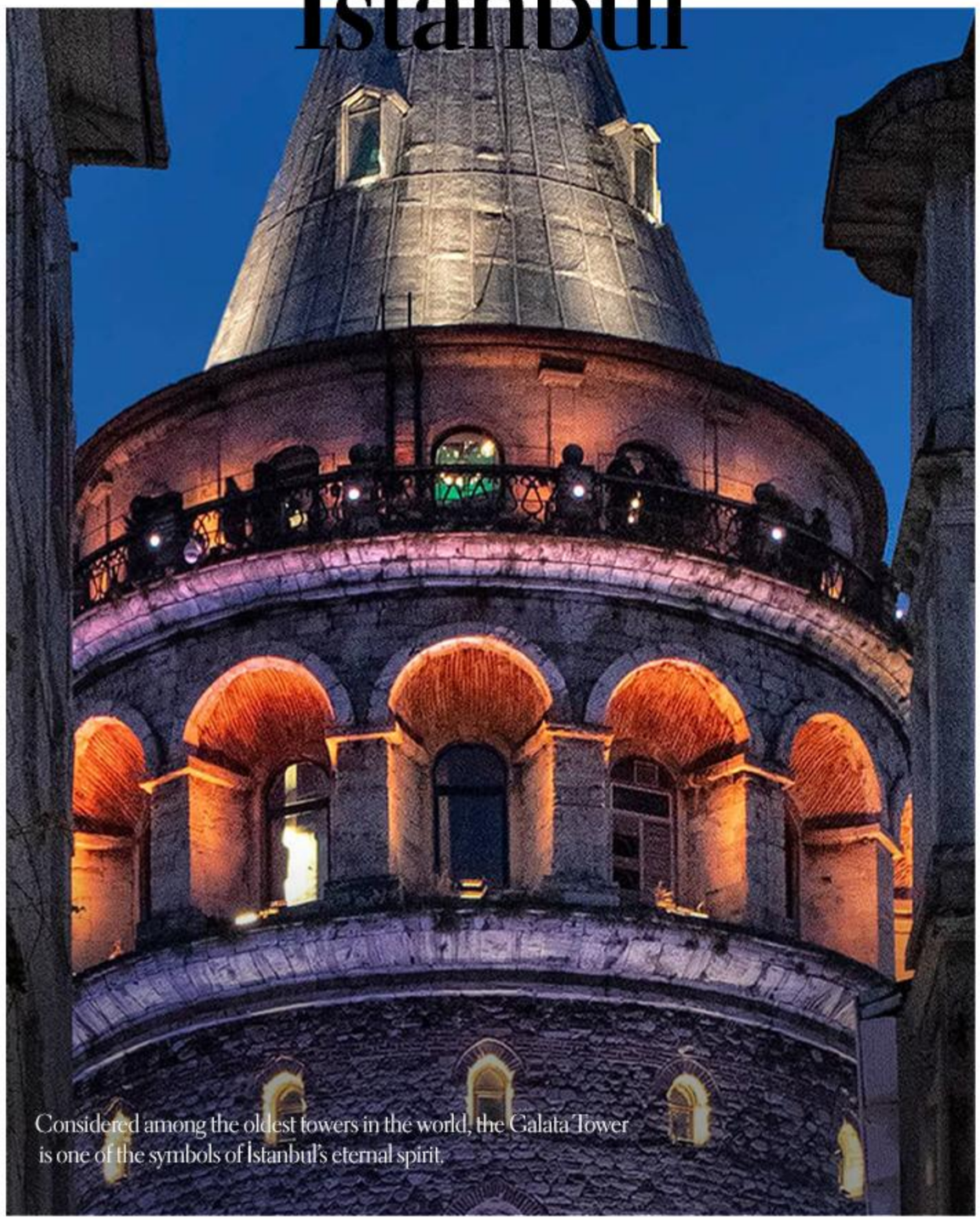
Take a **tour of the roof of the Grand Bazaar** as it's featured in "Skyfall" Go ahead, treat yourself to a 007 moment !





THE CULTURAL QUINTESSENCE OF

Istanbul



Considered among the oldest towers in the world, the Galata Tower is one of the symbols of Istanbul's eternal spirit.

DAY 4 : After breakfast, you will meet your professional guide at the hotel lobby for another private full day experience.

Today you'll beat the crowds by visiting imperial **Dolmabahce Palace**, the last Ottoman Palace, during the morning hours. It was built in the mid-19th century by Sultan Abdulmecit I. The facade stretches for 600 meters along the European shore of the Bosphorus and was the last home of the Ottoman Sultans.

Lunch is recommended at **Galataport** quarter in **Karaköy** the city's new culinary and cultural hub.

Then proceed to **Taksim Square**, the official city center of Istanbul followed by a pleasant walk along **Istiklal Street** all the way to **Galata** district, the center of ancient Genoese colony.

See the **Galata Tower**. This medieval stone tower was one of the tallest building in Istanbul until the mid-20th century and offers a beautiful panoramic view of the city from its top floor.

Istiklal Street or **Grande Rue de Péra** is like Embassy Row in DC with foreign embassies, schools, churches, and multinational communities from different countries.

ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

Enjoy a relaxing hammam experience and feel like an Ottoman Sultan.

Visit a hidden 500-year-old Turkish Bath which has been selected as one of the 100 extraordinary destinations to discover by the TIME magazine.



A MOONSCAPE REGION CARVED BY THE NATURE

Cappadocia



Imagine waking up to a fairy tale landscape, with a brilliant sun rising into the bluest of skies.
The same sky is which are peppered with hot air balloons slowly ascending.

DAY 5 : After your breakfast, you will meet your profesional guide at the hotel lobby and transfer to Istanbul Airport for your domestic flight. Arrive in Kayseri and transfer to your hotel with visits enroute.

Have a panoramic drive by **Zelve**, where 3 canyons meet in the **Valley of Monks**, boasting the best views of fairy-chimneys. Drive through the spectacular **Pasabag Valley**, enjoy a photo stop and capture wonderful images of the unique landscape.

Visit **Avanos** and enjoy a visit to a pottery workshop to meet the artisans and see their collections displayed in a vast underground cave complex.

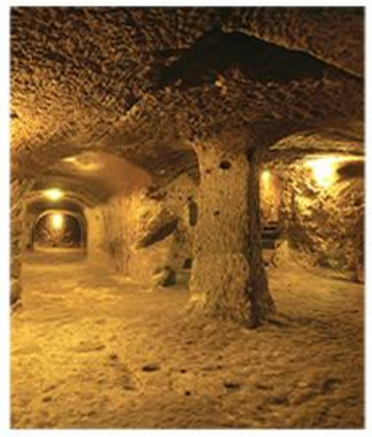
Then you will descend below the earth's surface into an authentic **Underground City**. Early Christians carved out these subterranean complex to avoid invaders who swept across the plains of Anatolia from the 6th to the 9th Century.

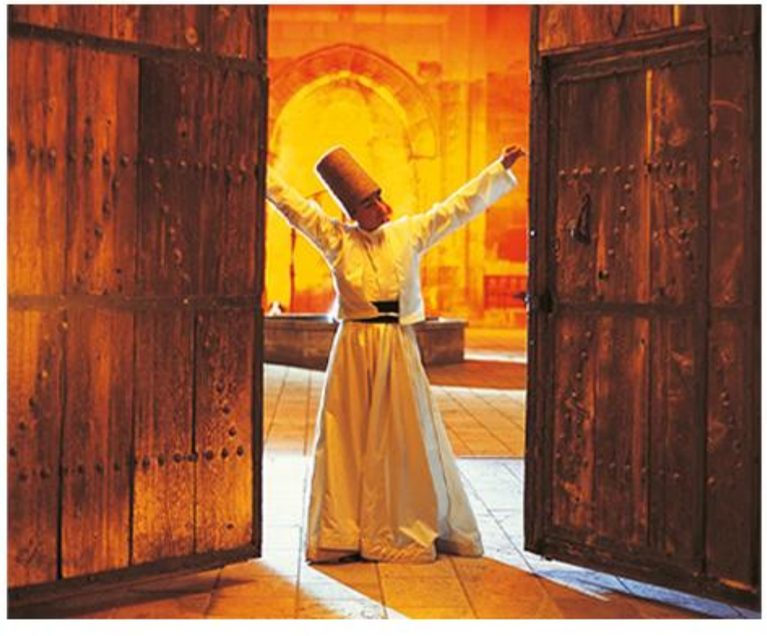
After dinner visit a historical Caravanserai to see the **Sema Ritual performed by Whirling Dervishes**, this is a mystical and very special experience.

ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

Horseback riding and photoshoot session

Relax and reflect whilst on horseback. Accompanied by a photographer, you'll both create and capture lifelong memories in Cappadocia.







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Clockwise from bottom:
Whirling dervishes
Underground city
Fairy chimneys
Opposite page:
Cappadocia

FLOAT OVER THE VALLEYS OF

Cappadocia



Cappadocia where history meets magic.
Step into the mystical world of Cappadocia and lose yourself among the fairy adventure.

DAY 6 : This morning watch the sun rise over Cappadocia on an optional - **stunning sunrise hot air balloon ride**. This is truly a once in a lifetime experience.

There is no better way to see the distinctive landscapes of Cappadocia than by gently floating overhead in a hot air balloon.

Your skillful pilot will skim the basket across fruit trees and rise up over the fairy chimneys, before ascending to great heights for breathtaking views. Upon landing you will celebrate your flight with a champagne toast!

Return to your hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, you will enjoy walking through the **Guvercinlik Valley (Pigeon Valley)**, one of the most famous valleys of Cappadocia and its name comes from the pigeon-cotes carved on its walls.

Then investigate the mystery of the vibrant frescoes in the rock-cut churches in **Göreme Open-Air Museum**.

Göreme has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site for its harmonious landscape of cave dwellings and dramatic fairy chimneys. Admire some of the area's most stunning, rock-hewn churches, whose brilliantly painted frescoes are among the finest examples of Byzantine art.

Today your **lunch will be served in a village home** where you can taste the local cuisine prepared especially for you.

Meet the family and learn about their way of life.

You will complete your day visiting **Mustafapasa (Sinassos)**, an ancient Greek village with its spectacular old Greek houses, selected for UNWTO's Best Tourism Villages list.



THE PEARL OF THE AEGEAN COAST

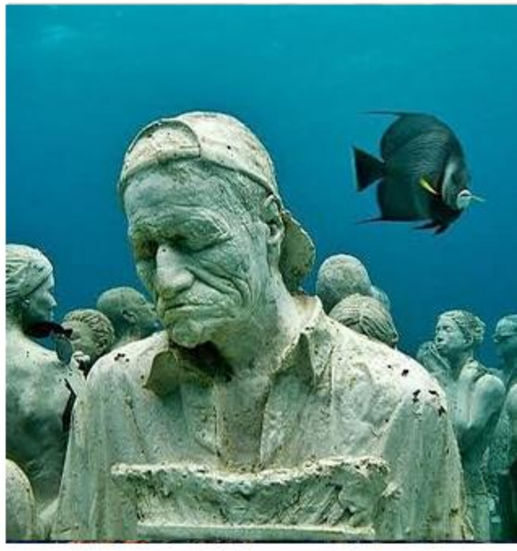
Bodrum



Known as Halicarnassos in antiquity, Bodrum has a glorious history behind its natural beauty and historical ruins







DAY 7: After an early breakfast depart your hotel and transfer to Kayseri Airport for your flight to **Bodrum** (via Istanbul). Arrive in Bodrum, transfer to your hotel and check in.

Late afternoon stop by the **ancient Theater of Halicarnassus** before visiting the **Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum** in the **Castle of St. Peter**, which houses the oldest shipwreck ever discovered.

DAY 8: Today enjoy your day at leisure at the resort. You can relax on the beach, enjoy the SPA or explore Bodrum town on your own.

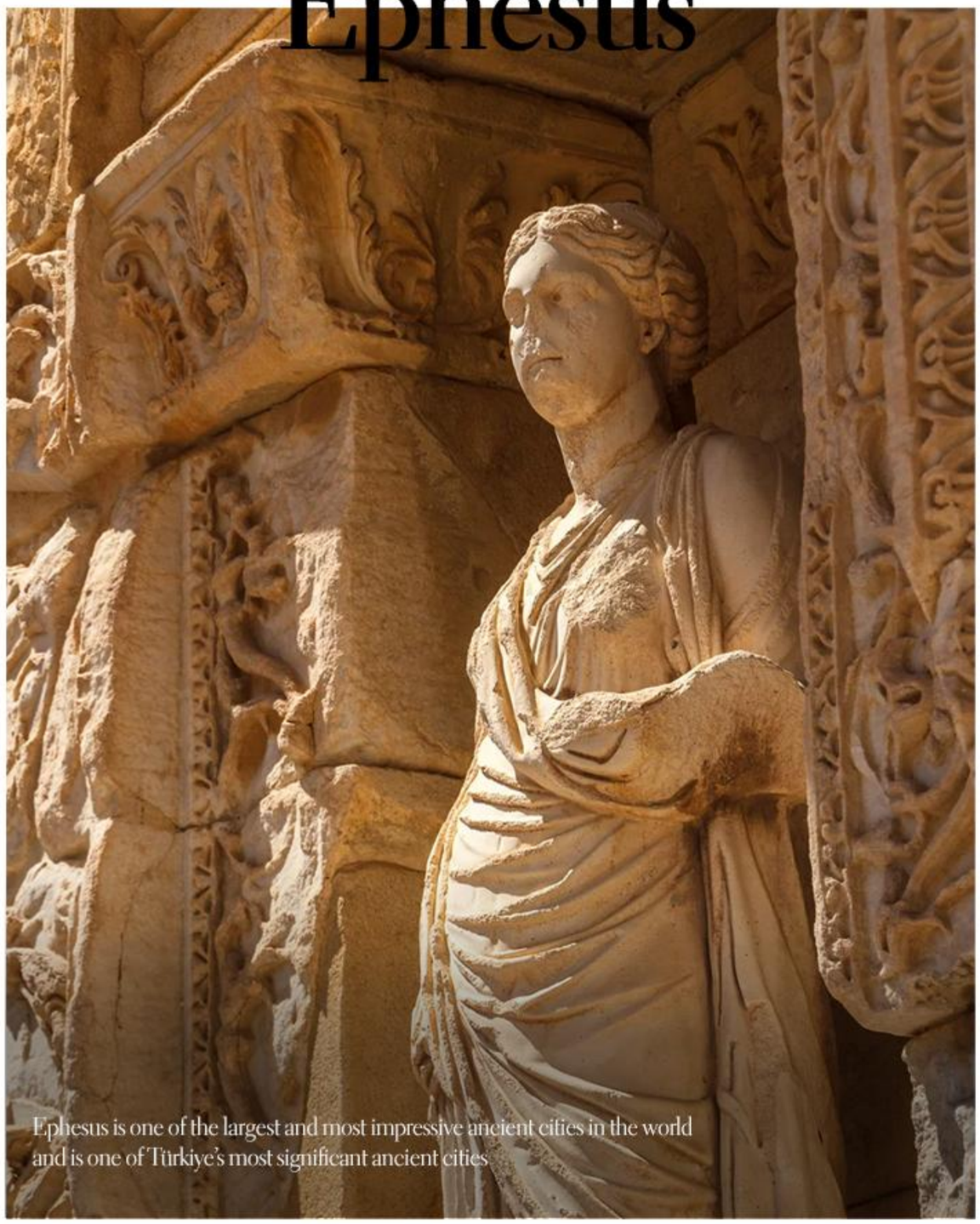
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Clockwise from bottom:
The windmills, Bodrum
Stuffed mussels
Bodrum Underwater Archaeology Museum
Opposite page:
Bodrum

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AT HOME WITH THE EPHESIANS

Ephesus



Ephesus is one of the largest and most impressive ancient cities in the world and is one of Türkiye's most significant ancient cities

DAY 9 : After breakfast, you will meet your professional guide at the hotel lobby and drive approximately 2 ½ hours to the ancient site of **Ephesus**, famous throughout the ancient world for its **Temple of Artemis**.

You will first visit Odeon Theatre where the state affairs used to be held. Then, view the Hadrian Temple, It was dedicated in 118 AD to Hadrian, Artemis, and the people of Ephesus but greatly reconstructed in the 4th century. This impressive Corinthian style temple has beautiful reliefs on the porch. According to the belief of Ephesians, the Medusa head on the porch, would protect the city from its enemies. Next, you will see spectacular Terrace Houses , located on top of the hill within the City of Ephesus. These were inhabited by wealthy Ephesians, and are finely decorated with mosaics and frescos. Proceed to **Celsus Library**, The library is the best preserved structure of its kind. The inscription on the side of the building's front staircase says that the library was build by Julius, in his father's honour, after his death. His father, Celsus was the Roman governor of Asia Minor early in the 2nd century AD.

The Great Theatre, dates back to the Hellenistic period. In the 1st century AD it was succesfully reconstructed, expanded by the Romans until it reached the seating capacity of 25,000. This is also the place where St.Paul preached. Marble Road, runs between the Library of Celsus and the theater and is a part of the sacred walk way.

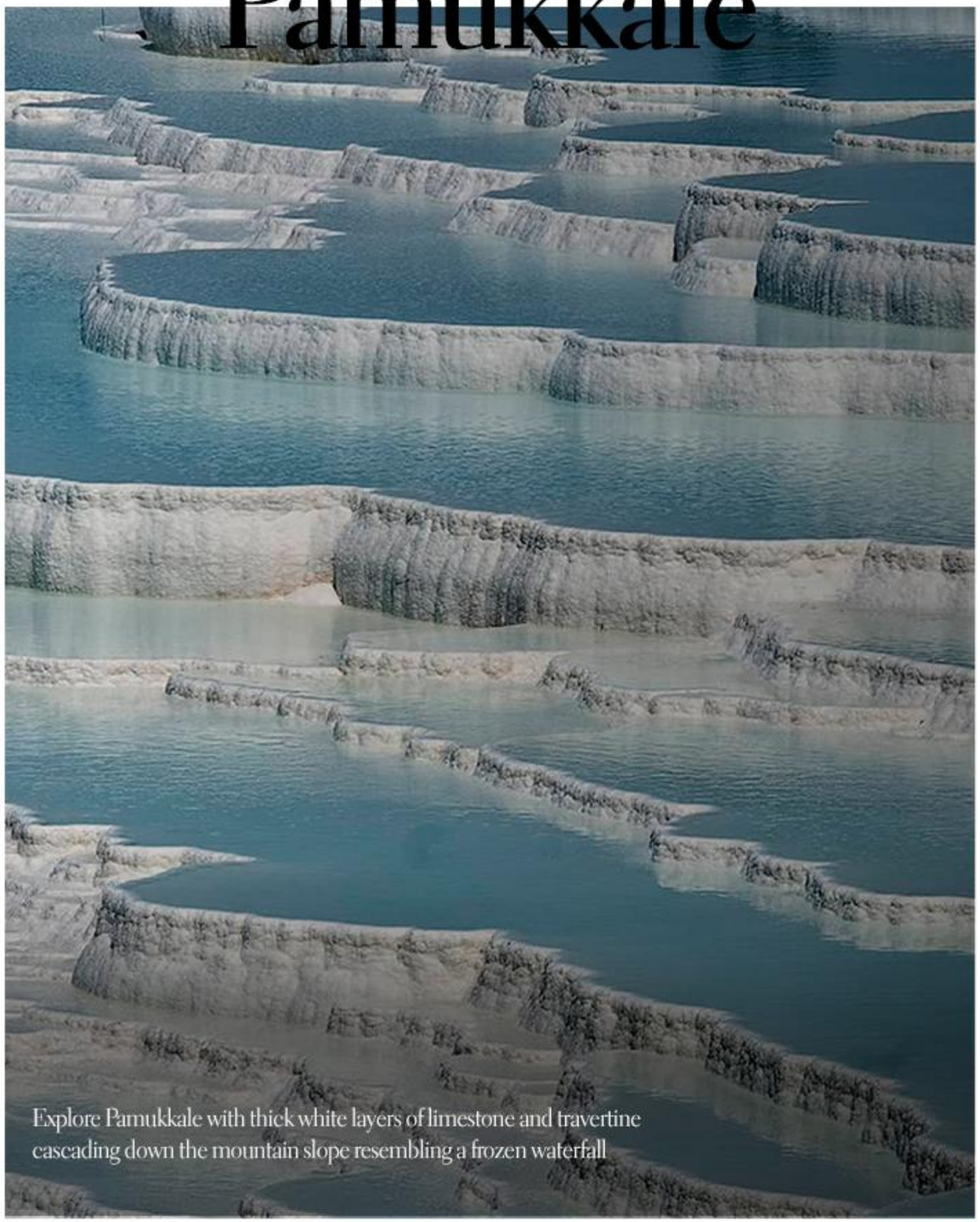
Next, see the **Basilica of St. John** and then drive up to Mt. Bulbul to see the **House of Virgin Mary** where She spent her last days.

Late afternoon you will explore **Sirince** - a perfect synthesis of a traditional Turkish village and traditional Greek village - on UNWTO's Best Tourism Villages list.



SURVEY THE SPLENDOR OF

Pamukkale



Explore Pamukkale with thick white layers of limestone and travertine cascading down the mountain slope resembling a frozen waterfall

DAY 10 : After breakfast, you will meet your professional guide at the hotel lobby and drive approximately 2 ½ hours to **Pamukkale**.

On the way to Pamukkale, visit **Aphrodisias**, a notable art Centre in antiquity.

Then see the awe-inspiring Pamukkale travertines and the ancient city of **Hierapolis**, which are registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List as natural and archaeological sites.

SIGHTSEEIST MOMENT
Soak up the sun while relaxing in Cleopatra's antique pool

In the evening transfer to Denizli Airport for your flight back to Istanbul. Arrive in Istanbul transfer to your hotel.

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Clockwise from bottom:
Hierapolis
Aphrodisias
Buldan, Denizli
Opposite page:
Pamukkale

DAY 11 : Depart Istanbul
After breakfast, transfer to the airport to depart.

EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY
If you would like to explore other destinations before or after your trip, we can create tailored adventures for you anywhere you want to go.







DELUXE VEHICLES

2025 | Mercedes-Benz V-Class

Have plenty of space to relax.

4 | 4 | 2

We have larger vehicles for bigger groups.







