

TURKEY & GREECE

PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE

traveltalk
adventure travel company



Travel Talk tours will take you on a pilgrimage of culture, history, adventure, fun and relaxation. You will visit sites of antiquity, explore the treasures of Turkey and Greece. Before you leave for your adventure, it is important that you read this pre-departure information to ensure that your trip begins, and proceeds, as smoothly as possible. While we appreciate that you are embarking on an "adventure holiday" that will produce its own share of surprises, it is also true that forewarned is forearmed. This information is not written with the intention of being anything other than general information that we hope will help you come more prepared for your holiday. The philosophy of Travel Talk is simple: to provide excellent value for money for budget conscious and adventurous travellers without compromising their experiences, and providing quality transportation, accommodation, sight seeing and information services. Travel Talk Sail Turkey & Greece tours take you to the best and most popular Hellas islands including Cyclades (Mykonos, Naxos, Paros, Ios, Santorini, Amorgos) and Dodecanese (Rhodes, Patmos, Tilos, Simi, Lipsi, Kalymnos, Kos, Nissiros, Leros) in great convenience while also giving you the opportunity to combine your cruise experience with an amazing discovery of Turkey or Athens.

VISAS

Turkey Visas

British, Irish, Australian, Canadian and United States passport holders can obtain a 3 month tourist visa upon arrival in Istanbul at the following current costs: UK GBP 10, Canada USD 60, Australia USD 20, New Zealand, no visa required.

Greece Visas

EU members, as well as citizens of the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are all automatically granted leave for a three-month stay in Greece. South Africans need a visa. Citizens of Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK and the US need valid passports to enter Greece and to re-enter their own countries.

ESSENTIALS

Before you leave your country, we recommend you to make sure you have followings with you ;

- Passport
- Airline or transportation ticket
- Tour voucher
- Insurance policy
- Visas (if necessary)
- Label on your travel bag
- Pre-departure information
- Money (cash and/or travellers cheques)
- Credit card

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is essential to all passengers travelling on Travel Talk tours to have personal insurance to cover all medical and repatriation costs. Please take your insurance policy with you. While there are no mandatory vaccinations

For travellers to Turkey it is advisable to ensure inoculation are up to date. Some travellers feel more confident with hepatitis and meningitis inoculations as well. Rabies exists in Turkey in rural areas although it is very unlikely that you will come in contact with a rabid animal. Immunisation is available in either a series of three injections over a period of one month (lasts 3-5 years) or a single visit booster dose that lasts only 6-12 months. Please consult a medical practitioner for advice.

WHAT TO WEAR...

Depending on the season; from November to February it can be very cold so remember to pack the woollies for the Christmas tour! In March, April or October it is cooler, so pack a few layers including a jacket. For the rest of the year pack summer clothing but remember to bring something warmer for the evenings. You need to bring comfortable footwear with you so we recommend trainers and flip flops/thongs for the summer months & Ugg or hiking boots for the cooler seasons.

MONEY

We recommend you carry a mixture of cash and a debit/credit card. The Turkish Lira is fully convertible and can be obtained before departure or upon arrival. ATM facilities, banks and Exchange booths are available in all major cities and towns. Avoid changing the bulk of your money at the airport, the exchange rates are usually more favourable in the city.
-GBP £1=2.8 TL USD \$1= 1.8 TL EUR €1=2.4 TL
-GBP £1=1.10 € USD \$1= £0.6

EATING & DRINKING

During your journey, we will give lunch breaks at these types of restaurants to save your money and time. Main dishes are generally on display; you choose and the meat or fish is taken away to be prepared. Greek food is delicious! A basic lunch and dinner (main meal + salad) in a local restaurant will cost you between £6 and £12 (€ 11 and € 17), a soft drink about £ 1.00 (€ 1.10).

WEATHER

Turkey is a destination that can be visited year round. Temperatures in Turkey during the Northern Hemisphere summer are generally high, particularly during the summer months from June through September. April can spring up surprising results. Days can be amazingly warm, though temperatures do drop at night, so pack some warmer clothes. Summer in Turkey for the most part is hot and dry. For the beach worshipper, June through September is best, when you'll enjoy glorious Mediterranean sun. Greece has a wide range of climate types, ranging from the semi-arid, semi-desert climate of south-eastern Crete to the cold, humid continental climate of Rhodope. The dominant condition of Greece's climate is the alternation between hot, dry summers and cold, damp winters typical of the Mediterranean. Considerable local variation results from

SHOPPING

Shopping in Turkey is one of the great experiences of travelling in this country. Many things are still bargains to be had although you have to be very careful to ensure that the products are authentic. Turkish carpets are world famous and can vary from a few pounds or dollars to thousands of pounds or dollars depending on size, quality, dyes, materials etc. Together with naturally dyed woollen carpets there are machine made carpets from man made fibres. Cappadocia has the widest range of carpets by virtue of buying carpets from all over Turkey and they are the cheapest.

Greece

Each region or island has its own souvenirs, such as honey and herbs from Mount Pelion, carpets from Metsovo, carvings from Vitina, silver jewellery from Ioannina, icons from Meteora, wine from Patras, leather wallets and pottery from Crete, and Mastika liqueur from Chios. Other items to take home are worry beads, ceramics, lace, embroidered clothes, carved and turned wood and marble and onyx carvings.

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OPENING HOURS

There are no hard and fast rules for opening hours in Turkey but shops are generally open from around 9.00am to 6.00pm, later in bazaars and shopping malls. They are usually closed on Sunday. Shops in Greece are generally open from around 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, then 5:00pm to 8:00pm. They are closed on Sunday

ELECTRICITY

All appliances require a double round pin type plug for 220 volts AC, 50- hertz.

TIPPING

Tips are a common rewards for service staff in Turkey like everywhere in the world. Your guide and crew can especially be honoured with this kind of traditional appreciation at the end of the trip. If you join a belly dancing show, the dancer will expect a tip of around £2.

DISTANCES

The following information will give you a better idea of the times travelled to help you plan your day:

- Istanbul-Gallipoli: 295 kms 5 hours
- Gallipoli-Troy-Pergamum-Selcuk: 382 kms 11 hours.
- Selcuk-Pamukkale: 193 kms 3.5 hours
- P.kale-Cappadocia: 630 kms 11 hours
- Cappadocia-Ankara : 287 kms 3.5 hours
- Ankara-Istanbul : 443 kms 5 hours
- Pamukkale-Fethiye: 230 kms 4.5 hours
- Fethiye - Kas : 120 kms 2 hours
- Kas-Olympos: 180 kms 2.5 hours
- Olympos-Antalya : 82 kms 1.5 hours
- Antalya- Cappadocia : 562 kms 11 hours.
- Pamukkale- Istanbul : 664 kms 9 hours.
- Marmaris- Istanbul : 800 kms 13 hours.
- Marmaris- Fethiye : 126 kms 2 hours.

- Athens-Piraeus : 12 km, 20 minutes
- Piraeus-Mykonos : 95 mi, 4.5 hours
- Mykonos-Santorini : 72 mi, 3 hours
- Mykonos-Paros : 26 mi, 1 hour
- Paros-Naxos : 19 mi, 40 minutes
- Naxos-Ios : 28 mi, 1.5 hours
- Ios-Santorini : 23 mi, 1 hour
- Santorini-Piraeus : 130 mi, 6 hours
- Kos-Nissiros : 30 mi, 1.5 hours
- Nissiros-Symi : 58 mi, 2 hours
- Symi-Rhodes : 30 mi, 1.5 hours
- Kos-Leros: 35 mi, 1.5 hours
- Leros-Patmos : 25 mi, 1 hour
- Patmos-Lipsi : 13 mi, 45 min.
- Lipsi-Kalymnos : 36 mi, 1 hour
- Bodrum Kos : 25 mi, 1 hour
- Bodrum-Kalymnos : 35 mi, 1.5 hours

ACCOMMODATION

The hotel selection on Travel Talk tours is 4 and 5 star locally rated and the main criteria in the hotel selection process is cleanliness, private bath-room facilities, usually but not always centrally located.

If you are travelling on your own, you'll be allocated a twin or triple room with other group members of the same gender. Travellers who have paid a single supplement will stay in single rooms except Gulet cruise if booked.

We can not guarantee the availability of double beds for couple travellers.

Your Tour Leader will organise the rooming arrangements when checking into the hotels according to the rooming lists sent by the operation department.

Therefore we can also not guarantee any last minute changes to suit personal requirements of our passengers.

ARRIVAL

The arrival airport transfer from Ataturk International Airport (IST) and Sabiha Gokcen Airport (SAW) is included in the price of the tour (on day 1 of the tour). You'll be met by our local representative at the airport who arranges the transfers from the airport to your hotel. Please make sure that you inform your agent of your flight details (arrival date, time, flight code and flight number) in order to be picked up from the airport. Please find below the address details of your arrival hotel in Istanbul :

Hotel Prince

Nobetbahce Cad.No:5
Sirkeci-Istanbul-Turkey
Tel : 0090 212 513 25 50
www.hotelprince.com

Guide Meeting

Please note that your guide will meet and brief you about the next days of your tour at the arrival hotel at 06:30 p.m. on day one.

Meeting Point: Barbaros Yachting

Adress: Neyzen Tevfik Cad. No:66/1 48400
Bodrum TURKIYE

Contact Number in Bodrum: +90 544 699 99 78

SERVICES INCLUDED

- Arrival Airport Transfer
- Accommodation in 5 and 4 star hotels
- Meals ; 15 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 7 Dinners
- Gulet Cruise between Bodrum and Mykonos in ensuite cabins
- Transportation in air - conditioned Non-smoking coaches or mini-buses
- Services of experienced guides licenced by the Ministry of Tourism.
- Excursions as per the itinerary

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED

- Any flights, insurance
- Meals not stated in the itinerary
- Drinks
- Tips, visa fees
- Entrance fees to the sights and museums and Port tax (£140)
- Other services not stated in the "services included" section, optional activities and excursions.

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FANTASTIC TURKEY+ SAIL CYCLADES AND DODECANESE 16 Day

Day 1: Istanbul

At the terminal keep your eyes open for the Travel Talk sign, as we pick you up from the airport and take you to our Istanbul hotel. Gather round in the hotel lobby at 6:00pm as we meet both the other tour members and the guide. Listen up for a fast and informal meeting with the leader including registration and a short brief about the adventures ahead and some country info.

Day 2: Istanbul

After breakfast we begin to experience the magnificence of Istanbul. We stroll through the old town visiting Blue Mosque, Hippodrome, majestic Topkapi Palace and the Hagia Sophia Museum.

Day 3: Gallipoli

Today we depart Istanbul for the shores of Gallipoli. We visit all the important memorial sites in the region including the Kabatepe War Museum, Anzac Cove, Chunuk Bair and Lone Pine.

Day 4: Troy, Pergamum, Selçuk

After breakfast we head to the ancient city of Troy, the setting of Homer's epic, Iliad, involving a giant wooden horse. We then continue to Pergamum, and the remains of the Temple of Athena, Temple of Trajan, library and theatre cut into the hillside. In the evening we arrive in Selçuk.

Day 5: Ephesus, Marmaris

The best preserved ancient town in Turkey, Ephesus, will be our first stop. In the afternoon we depart for Marmaris where we can explore the buzzing tourist and resort town!

Day 6: Marmaris, Dalyan, Fethiye

After breakfast we make our way to Dalyan, a small town in the south-western coast popular for its natural and unspoiled beauty. We join a boat trip to visit the most popular mud bath in Turkey, and we then continue to Iztuzu beach, homeland of world famous Caretta Caretta turtles. After a fantastic boat travel we reach Iztuzu sandbar with fine sand and turquoise sea. In the afternoon we depart for Fethiye, the "traveller's paradise" on the Mediterranean coast.

Day 7: Fethiye, Oludeniz

This morning we set out for Kayakoy, the interesting old Greek town famous for its stone houses. We then make our way to Oludeniz. Besides its spectacular beaches, glittering waters and breathtaking natural scenery, Oludeniz is also popular for its water sport activities. Here you can relax on the exquisite beach or join one of the adventure activities including paragliding and microlighting. Late in the afternoon we depart for our overnight stay in Fethiye.

Day 8: Fethiye, Saklikent, Pamukkale

After visiting the huge canyon of Saklikent Gorge we head to Pamukkale meaning "cotton castle" in Turkish, this is a natural site that contains hot springs and travertines, giving the appearance of terraces made by carbonate minerals left by the flowing water. The ancient city of Hierapolis was built on top of the white "castle" and people have bathed in its pools for thousands of years.

Day 9: Pamukkale Bodrum, Embark Boat

Boarding starts at 15:30 from Bodrum Harbour. Guests who arrive early may leave their luggage at the Barbaros Yachting Office. On the first day, our boat will be anchored at Bodrum Port for dinner and overnight stay. Bodrum has a history that goes back to the 12th century B.C. The city which was called 'Halicarnassus' was the birthplace of Herodotus; the 'Father of History' who lived in the 5th century B.C. The 'Mausoleum' of King Mausolus (350 B.C.) which is one of the Seven Wonders of the World is in this city. The only structure that survived from the Classical Era is the Amphitheatre. It is one of the oldest theatres in Anatolia with a capacity of 13,000 guests, and is still hosting many shows and concerts for the art-lovers of Bodrum. Another place that you should visit whilst in Bodrum is the landmark of the city 'Castle of Saint Peter'. It is one of the best preserved pieces of architecture with a history that dates back to the Middle Ages. 'Myndos Gate' through which Alexander the Great entered Halicarnassus is another place that you should not miss.

Day 10: Bodrum, Kos, Leros

This morning we will cruise to Kos (Cos), the birth place of Hippocrates, 'the Father of Medical Sciences'. Kos is the second largest island of the 12 Dodecanese islands and has a very mild climate and very fertile lands. The island houses a 560-year-old tree, a 211-year-old fountain and a 290 km long beach. You may take a swim in Lambi Beach which is very close to Kos Harbour. In the afternoon we'll cruise to Leros. Leros is a mountainous, green island with high cliffs and many small bays and villages. After a swimming break in Xerakampos, we will anchor at Lakki Harbour or Agia Marina Port located in east. It's worth to visit Platanos, the main city of Leros with steep stairs, narrow streets, and flower gardens. From Platanos you can take the steps leading up the Castle of Leros climbing 300 steps! Rent a bike or explore this island by foot; both options will be unique experiences in this beautiful Dodecanese island.

Day 11: Leros, Levita/Amorgos

Early morning we pull anchor and start the sail to Amorgos. Amorgos is one of the popular islands in Greece with white houses, crystal clear water and a peaceful atmosphere. It is no coincidence that Luc Besson chose to shoot the first part of the film "The Big Blue" here. Once only visited by young travellers, Amorgos has become quite a "trendy" island since the film was released, and it is no surprise that you will find more adventurous people here than usual. The coastline is 112 kms long, surrounded by impressive mountains and rocky hills and the island is one of the best spots to taste traditional Greek cuisine and wine. Evening free to visit the island on your own. Depending on the weather/wind conditions we may sail to Levita instead of Amorgos. Levita is also a popular island on the Aegean Sea famous for its white houses, long beaches and peaceful atmosphere.

Day 12: Levita/Amorgos, Santorini

As the sun comes up we head for the magic summer madness of Santorini. It has been said that the sunsets in Santorini are the best in the world. From the Caldera, watch breathtaking views of the volcano & neighbouring islands. Santorini is one of the major tourist attractions of Europe with its marvellous climate and perfect observation conditions, you will experience a wild beauty created from a volcano that lies in the middle of the bay. Today you will have free time to explore the island.

Day 13: Santorini, Ios

Early this morning we pull anchor and start the sail to Ios. A lazy day ahead filled with sun tanning, listening to music and on board meals. We stop at an ideal swimming spot on the way to Ios - the famous tourist destination. Visitors come for its golden beaches and the characteristic Aegean architecture. Ios is well known as the party island with the lively atmosphere and the endless fun. The capital is built at the point where the ancient city was, where white houses unfold and its windmills and narrow small roads can be seen on the hill tops. We remain floating in the bay over night.

Day 14: Ios, Naxos

Today we depart Ios for Naxos. The island of Naxos is the largest and most central island in the Cyclades. Approaching the island by boat, you can see two small islands to the left and right of the harbor, one with the little church of Myrtilidiotissa, and the other called Palatia which is linked to Naxos Town. The imposing gate, Portara is an ancient marble temple dedicated to Apollo. Ligdamis ordered this to be built in the god's honor in the 6th century B.C. After the orientation walk in this impressive island you will have more free time to explore the town and to swim in the warm waters of the Aegean Sea - with an optional excursion.

Day 15: Naxos, Paros, Mykonos

Departing from Naxos in the small hours of the morning we head for Paros. The first thing you notice when in Paros is the blue transparent sky floating inside dazzling white sunlight. Look on the island for the white Cycladic houses built next to the Aegean Sea. The two large natural bays of the islands Parikia and Naoussa, have beautifully protected sandy beaches. After a break in Paros we will sail to Mykonos; it is no coincidence that this, the most cosmopolitan of all Greek islands, attracts so many visitors from the entire globe. Here the steep mountains to be encountered in most of the Cyclades islands give way to low, rocky hills which combine with superb beaches. The capital Hora, with its colourful harbour in which little fishing boats nest happily side by side with luxury yachts, presents quite a different picture from that of the majority of Aegean island towns. Mykonos is spread out over a flat area, and the whitewashed streets stand as brilliant white cubic houses with stepped walls for sitting on.

Day 16: Mykonos (Nearest airport Mykonos)

Our trip will end here (11:00am) in the stunning waters of Mykonos. After an on board breakfast we say goodbye to our new friends, and disembark the vessel.



ENTRANCE FEES

- Topkapi Palace 20 TL
- Hagia Sophia Museum 20 TL
- Blue Mosque Free, Hippodrome Free
- Kabatepe War Museum 3 TL
- Troy 15 TL
- Pergamum (Asklepion) 15 TL
- Ephesus 20 TL
- Pamukkale 20 TL
- Dalyan Mud Bath 4 TL
- Iztuzu Beach 3 TL
- Saklikent 4 TL

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Turkish Bath 40 TL

THE TOUR PRICE AND LOCAL PAYMENT

We ease your cash needs by dividing the tour cost into two payments : tour price and local fund. You just need to pay the tour price to purchase your travel. The compulsory local payment will be done when you join the trip. The local payment is a part of the tour cost (a tool to ease your cash need on booking date) and it does not cover any extra costs like meals, entry fees, drinks, tips, personal expenses or other type of travel costs.