

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. And there 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 Greek 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;14 Breakfasts,6 Lunches,12 Dinners
- Gulet Cruise between Bodrum and South Dodecanese 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 (£90)
- Other services not stated in the "services included" section, optional activities and excursions.

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FANTASTIC TURKEY+ SAIL SOUTH 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, Selcuk.

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 Selcuk.

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 travertine's, 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 Gulet

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: Cos (Kos)

Whilst you have breakfast, you will be informed about the cruise itinerary. After the paper work at customs is completed we will cruise to Kos Island. Asclepion, known to be the birth place of Hippocrates, 'the Father of Medical Sciences', is located here. All the East- Mediterranean people with health problems were treated in Kos (Istankoy). Kos; the second largest island of the 12 islands (Dodecanese islands) 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 quick swim in Lambi Beach which is very close to Kos Harbour. Cos is one of the islands with the best night life. Nafklirou, a street full of bars, is always crowded, colourful, and full of life.

Day 11: Gyalı - Nissiros

Early in the morning we will cruise to Gyalı Island and have a swimming break. There is no settlement and only pumice stone remains on this little volcanic island. We will cruise to Nissiros. The volcano on Nissiros island- which means 'the place with figs'- in the Aegean Sea- erupted in 1422 and is still active. Nikea village located on the side of the crater is constituted with white streets and a mosaic-style square. You can take an optional bus tour to the crater which is still active and you will see the gases coming from the underground. Dinner and overnight stay will be on in this little, peaceful island.

Day 12: Simi

We will set sail for Simi Island early in the morning and arrive at the Monastery of Panormitis which is located in the southern part of Simi. It is possible to visit the Monastery and the Museum on this well-protected and peaceful bay. After having a swimming break on the eastern shores of the island, we will anchor at the port early in the evening. You can see the shoreline with its neo-classical houses and the peripheral districts. You are going to adore Simi for its pine and oak forests and unique bays.

Day 13: Rhodes

We will cruise to Rhodes early in the morning. Rhodes is the largest of the Dodecanese Islands. The island is a very popular holiday place as it has one of the best-protected and the largest European Medieval city and has warm weather 300 days of a year. Rhodes has been home for many civilizations; starting with the knights of St.John in the Middle Ages, then Ottomans and Italians; thus the island has a unique historical harmony and beauty. The main port of Rhodes is the Rhodes Town which bears the same name as the island. The other very touristic areas of Rhodes island are; Lyndos and Kamiros. The city, which is still surrounded by 12 meter-thick city-walls, gives you the feeling of travelling back to Medieval times especially when you walk around its narrow, stone-paved roads. After dinner, our guests are highly recommended to enjoy a Rhodes night out.

Day 14: Datca - Palamutbükü - Knidos (Cnidus)

We return to Turkey via Datca. Whilst your captain completes the port formalities, you may have a walk along Datca Harbour. After lunch we cruise to Palamutbükü for a swim stop. Today, our last stop will be Knidos (Cnidus) for dinner and overnight stay. Cnidus was a developed city in science, art and architecture. Eudoxos, a very popular astronomer and maths professor; Dr. Euryphon; Polygontos, a popular painter; Skopas and Bryaksis of Faros, the most famous sculptors of the era; Sostrates, the architect of Alexandrian light house -one of the seven wonders of the World-and Ktesias the doctor who saved the life of a Persian king from a disaster lived on this island. Dr. Euryphon and his students founded the second largest medical sciences school in Cnidus. The island also homes the largest sun clock of its time which was erected by Eudoksos. Knidos was the home for Aphrodite's monument and at those times the city was famous for brothels and became popular for sailors and Arabic tradesmen. You may take a walk on the shore to see the ruins around its narrow, stone-paved roads. After dinner, our guests are highly recommended to enjoy a Rhodes night out.

Day 15: Poyraz Harbour - Meteor Bay - Bodrum, Istanbul

We will start to cruise early in the morning to Karaada (Black Island). Breakfast and a swimming stop will be at Poyraz Bay which is located on the northern side of the island. This is such a nice bay with its turquoise-blue waters. We will be anchoring at Meteor Bay for lunch which is located on the southern side of the island. There is a meteor hole here and this is how the bay got its name. Here you may jump over the platform into the deep water. You may also take a walk through the underwater caves which are very near to Meteor Bay for a small local fee. In the afternoon we'll disembark cruise boat in Bodrum and night drive by inter-city bus to Istanbul.

Day 16 Istanbul

Our trip ends at the bus terminal in Istanbul.



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.