



Blue North Scuba Club Trip
Maldives and Türkiye October 2026
Türkiye - October 5 - 11, 2026

Quote provided by Travelbrands - Exotik Tours - 6 Nights in Turkey

Occidental Taksim by Barcelo, Istanbul 4 nights + Yunak Evleri Cave Hotel, Cappadocia 2 nights + 1 night Oct. 11 (2 rooms only with cost split amongst the group) - rate per person at double occupancy \$3830 CAD

Single Supplement \$1345 CAD

Deposit: 30% per person, non-refundable.

Final Payment: June 17, 2026

Rates based on 15 - 19 Guests.

All rates are subject to change and to availability.

An upward tariff adjustment is to be expected if the base is not reached.

A minimum of 10 passengers is required to guarantee a group departure.

THE PACKAGE INCLUDES

- **Accommodation** for 6 nights in Turkey in 4* or equivalent hotels, standard rooms including breakfasts and tourist tax
- **Meals** as per itinerary. (6 Breakfast, 6 Lunches)
- **Transportation** by private coach as per itinerary
IMPORTANT: As this is a group of divers, the supplier allows travelers to have 2 checked bags and one carry-on bag
- Entry fees to the sites mentioned in the program
- Local taxes
- Bosphorus tour in a private boat
- **English speaking guide** as per itinerary
- **Entrance fees** as per itinerary

THE PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International Flights
- **Cappadocia-Istanbul domestic flight**
- Meals not mentioned and drinks during meals
- Optional excursions
- Tips to hotel staff, guides and drivers
- Insurance and personal expenses
- Entry visas (if required) - please refer to www.voyage.gc.ca
- Local tourist taxes (if applicable), unless otherwise indicated - may vary by city and are payable directly to the hotels
- Any other items not mentioned in the inclusions section

PERSONALIZED ITINERARY

DAY 1 – October 5, 2026: ISTANBUL

Arrive to Istanbul, Meet & Greet. Transfer to your hotel with an English-speaking guide. Remainder of the day is free.

LODGING: OCCIDENTAL TAKSIM BY BARCELO 4* or similar, for 4 nights in standard room including breakfast and taxes.

DAY 2- October 6, 2026: ISTANBUL (B/L)

Classical Istanbul visit

Tour of "Sultan Ahmet Center", the heart of the "Old City" from where the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires were ruled.

The Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque (Ayasofya-i Kebir Cami-i Şerifi), once the Church of Divine Wisdom, with its innovative architecture, rich history, religious significance and extraordinary characteristics has been fighting against time for centuries, was the largest Eastern Roman Church in İstanbul. Constructed three times in the same location, it is the world's oldest and fastest-completed cathedral.

Blue Mosque, facing Hagia Sophia, famous with its blue İznik tiles and unique with 6 minarets, built in the name of Sultan Ahmet.

Hippodrome, center of sportive events (chariot races, athletics) and political activities of the old city. Serpentine Column, Obelisk of Theodosius and German Fountain of Wilhelm II are the monuments decorating the Hippodrome.

Grand Covered Bazaar, most attractive shopping center and the biggest "souk" in the world with nearly 4000 shops selling antiques, jewellery, gold, carpets, leatherware and souvenir. (Art demonstration of handmade Turkish carpets upon request)

Lunch at a Turkish Restaurant



Topkapı Palace, residence of Ottoman Sultans exhibiting imperial treasury, sacred Islamic relics of Prophet Mohammed, kitchen, Chinese porcelain, weapons, calligraphy section etc.

Live guide commentary is not allowed in special sections. (Harem is not included in the program)

The Hagia Irene located in the outer courtyard of Topkapı Palace is the oldest church of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine). It was also the second largest church in İstanbul after Hagia Sophia. It's a typical Byzantine structure with its materials and architecture, was built on the site of an old temple in 330.

Sultan Tombs, there are five tombs of Ottoman Sultans within the graveyard at Hagia Sophia.

The ceramic panels are the most beautiful examples of the 16th century with purple, red, green and blue flower motives. Prince robes and a small piece from the Kaaba covers are displayed on the sarcophaguses.

At the end of the tour transfer to the hotel. Dinner on own.

DAY 3 - October 7, 2026, 2025: ISTANBUL(B/L)

Dolmabahce and Bosphorus Tour

Golden Horn (from the bus), the arm of the Bosphorus and a natural harbour of the historical peninsula separating the old and the new parts of İstanbul where the first colonies settled during the Byzantines. The residential area for Byzantine Jews, Italian traders and other non-Muslim minorities. Drive along the traces of history at Balat, viewing Metal Church of St. Stephen the Bulgarian, Jewish Hospital (Or-Ahayim), Fener Orthodox Patriarchate and 22 kms. long Byzantine City Walls, strongest fortification of the middle age.

Spice Bazaar (Egyptian Bazaar), mystical smells of different aromas of various spices. Shops selling fruits, vegetables, fish, flowers etc.

Bosphorus Cruise on a private boat, through the waterway separating the two continents, Europe and Asia, with a possibility to take photographs of marble palaces, ancient wooden villas of Ottoman architecture besides modern residencials and luxurious apartments.

Rumeli Fortress (from the boat – no interior visit), historical armament built by the Conqueror to control and protect the Bosphorus. A unique example of military architecture.

(Visit to a leather showroom if time permits)

Lunch at a Turkish Restaurant

Dolmabahçe Palace, recent residence for Ottoman Sultans built by two Ottoman architects Karabet and Nikogos Balyan on a 110.000 m² area and served as the main administrative center of the Ottoman Empire. Famous with great collection of European antiquity, furniture and 4.5 tons chandelier, the palace has 285 rooms and 46 halls.

Bosphorus Bridge, unique chance to step from one continent (Europe) to another (Asia) in 2 minutes.

Çamlica Hill, famous for its widest bird's eye panoramic view of İstanbul from Marmara Sea to the Black Sea, gives a chance to see the Bosphorus and Golden Horn from one of the best points of the highest and most appealing places of the city.



At the end of the tour transfer to the hotel. Dinner on own.

DAY 4- October 8, 2026: ISTANBUL (B/L)

Most important sights from the “Magnificent Century” of Ottomans

Süleymaniye Mosque is the largest imperial mosque and one of the best-known sights of İstanbul. Built by the Court Architect Master Sinan on the order of Süleyman The Magnificent. The mosque crowns İstanbul on a hilltop dominating Golden Horn. In the garden, there are two mausoleums: Tomb of Sultan Süleyman I and his wife Hürrem Sultan (Roxelana). Outside the walls you can see the Tomb of Master Architect Sinan.

Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum is housed in the former palace of İbrahim Paşa, the Grand Vizier to Süleyman the Magnificent. Before being converted into a museum, palace served as a prison, a home for foreign ambassadors, a clothing factory and barracks. Today, the museum contains beautifully displayed examples; illuminated Qurans and Turkish carpets collection which is rated as one of the best in the world and attracts serious carpet enthusiasts. Historical Ottoman Mansion presenting a rich collection of Turkish Carpets.

Lunch

Arasta Bazaar built in 17th century in the heart of Sultanahmet. The bazaar is an oriental market with 40 shops selling souvenirs, ceramics, textiles and more.

Great Palace of Constantinople was the ceremonial heart of the Byzantine Empire for a millennium. It was situated on a sloping site between the Hippodrome and the sea walls, in the area known as Sultanahmet today.

Mosaic Museum, the standout attraction and an undervalued gem of İstanbul.

The Cistern, big underground water reservoir of Constantinople.

Million Stone, monument erected in the 4th century AD as the Byzantine zero-mile marker, the starting place for all the roads leading to the cities of the Byzantine Empire.

At the end of the tour transfer to the hotel. Dinner on own.

DAY 5 - October 9, 2026, 2025: ISTANBUL – CAPPADOCIA (B/L)

Pick up from the and transfer to the airport for your flight to Cappadocia. Arrive in Kayseri Airport. You'll be transferred to Cappadocia and start your tour. Visit to Devrent Valley where various types of fairy chimneys are abundant. We will walk through this amazing valley. Thereafter visit Pasabagi (Monk's Valley) with multiple stems and caps, peculiar to this area. After visiting Pasabagi, drive to Avanos which is known for the pottery, a craft dating back to the Hittite period. The red clay which is worked by local craftsmen comes from the residue in the Kizilirmak river, the longest river of Turkey.

Lunch

Further to the time for lunch proceed to Goreme Open Air Museum (Dark Church is included) to visit the churches, chapels and monasteries carved into the fairy chimneys from the 10th to the 13th centuries with frescos painted on the walls. Thereafter time to take photos in the neighboring valleys before going to the hotel.



LODGING: YUNAK EVLERI CAVE HOTEL or similar, for 2 nights in standard rooms including breakfast and taxes

DAY 6 - October 10, 2026: CAPPADOCIA (B/L)

Meet at the hotel lobby with your guide and visit to Rose Valley, one of the most beautiful trekking valleys in Cappadocia, and explore the famous rock-cut churches by hiking through the valley. Rest in Cavusin, an old Greek village, known for its Christian houses and churches. After having time for **lunch** visit Ortahisar Castle, similar to Uchisar Castle in style, where storage caves can also be observed. In the afternoon visit Kaymakli Underground City where early Christians lived in fear and faith. On the way back visit to panoramic Pigeon Valley where pigeons contributed to the lives of locals with their manure to fertilize the vineyards. You may also like to taste Cappadocia wine in a local winery. Overnight in Cappadocia.

DAY 7 - October 11, 2026, 2025: CAPPADOCIA - ISTANBUL (B/L)

After breakfast we set off on a full day of sightseeing in Cappadocia. We will start off with a visit to The Mustafapasa Village (Sinassos) – Old Greek Village In the wonderful landscape of Cappadocia, Mustafapasa is the old, tranquil and picturesque town, Known formerly as Sinassos. This small town of 2500 inhabitants where originally Turks and Greeks lived side by side and the sound of church bells mingled with the call to prayer. After lunch we will drive to Soganli valley, which was continuously inhabited since the earliest days of the Christian era, has churches that date from the 9th to 13th centuries. Some of the churches contain inscriptions giving the exact dates of construction and thus have provided scholars with valuable clues to help date other churches in Cappadocia. Soganli, like other valleys in Cappadocia, exemplifies the harmony between man and nature. Over the centuries men carved shelters for themselves in the cliffs and rock cones of the valley. They also used the rocks provided by nature to create expressions of their religious faith and devotion to God.

Return to the hotel at 16:00 to refresh in 2 rooms reserved for you.

Departure from the hotel at 18:00 to be in Kayseri town at 19:15. You will stop in a local restaurant to eat Kayseri's famous MANTI, very close to the airport (dinner not included). You will be at the airport at 21:00 to check-in and take your flight at 22:30.

To book your trip contact Rebecca Metcalfe, Trip Leader
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