



**12 September 2015**

# **Veloturk GranFondo**

“Istanbul-Ephesus-Cappadocia Travel Package”

7 - 13 September 2015



for registration & info  
[cappadociabikefestival.com](http://cappadociabikefestival.com)







### September 7, Monday

On your arrival to Istanbul Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day on your own. Overnight in Istanbul.

### September 8, Tuesday

Our guide meets you at the hotel at 09:00 for a full day waking tour. We first stroll to the great square which was once the Byzantine Hippodrome. Now it is a great park like area surrounded by the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, and the Underground Cistern. The Hippodrome exhibits the Walled Column, The Serpent Column and the Egyptian Obelisque from the Byzantine times and the German Fountain is located in the North end of the Hippodrome. Next we visit the Hagia Sophia, the most important Byzantine building in the world. After visiting the Underground Cistern, commonly called the Basilica Cistern, we have lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we visit the Blue Mosque which was completed in 1616. We end the tour with a visit to the greatest Bazaar of them all, the Grand Bazaar, one of the most extraordinary shopping experiences in the world. Overnight in Istanbul.

### September 9, Wednesday

In the morning, we walk through the old cobbled streets down to Rustem Pasha Mosque, designed by Mimar Sinan in 1561, and then the Spice Market, where Genoese and Venetian goods were sold at a time when there was no Suez Canal, and all the spices from the East were also brought here after being loaded on vessels in Egypt. We will continue for a leisure cruise on the Bosphorus on a local ferry, having an opportunity to admire the palaces, Ottoman yalis (wooden Bosphorus seaside mansions), the Bosphorus Bridge and fortresses, among others. After lunch, we will proceed to the Topkapi Palace, more than just a palace; it is an assemblage of museums containing collections amassed by the Sultans for almost five centuries. Our visit also takes you to the famous Harem where the Imperial Family resided. After this, we transfer you to Istanbul Airport for the evening flight to Izmir, from where we take an hour's transfer tour hotel. Dinner and overnight in Kusadasi.

### September 10, Thursday

Today we first drive to the Virgin Mary's House; after that we visit Ephesus which was founded in the eleventh century BC by the Ionians. Strolling through the streets of Ephesus, we will witness the perfection of the Greco-Roman Art. Later in the afternoon we will visit St John's Basilica, believed to be the tomb of the Apostle John, Christ's beloved disciple. From the basilica, we will be able to look down on the remains of the temple of Artemis. We end the day with our visit to the Isa Bey Mosque and transfer you to Izmir Airport for the evening flight to Kayseri. Another transfer from Kayseri Airport to your hotel. Dinner and overnight in Urgup.

### September 11, Friday

The tour begins with a descent towards the centre of the earth, with a trip to the underground city of Kaymakli, one of the largest and deepest of Cappadocia's many such settlements. From here we drive to the famous Goreme Open Air Museum to see the best examples of Byzantine art in Cappadocia. These are found in rock-cut churches with frescoes and paintings dating from as early as the 10th century. From here we pause at Avanos, a centre of terracotta art since 2,000 BC, for a demonstration in a traditional pottery workshop. After lunch in Avanos, we visit Pasabag's "fairy chimneys", where the voice of the wind harmonizes with the songs of the fairies. We end the tour with a visit to Sarihan Caravanserai, a very fine example of the Turkish Seljuk art, built in the early 13th century on the legendary Silk Road, for the accommodation of the traders and their camels. After a short break at the hotel, we transfer you to the Festival HQ for the registration and Pasta Party. Dinner and overnight in Urgup.

### September 12, Saturday

After breakfast at the hotel, we transfer you to the start area for the "Veloturk Gran Fondo". At the end of the race, we transfer you back to your hotel. Dinner and overnight in Urgup.

### September 13, Sunday

We transfer you to Kayseri or Nevsehir Airport for your flight.

#### Price:

• Euro 1095 per person, sharing a double or twin room. • Single supplement: Euro 180.

#### Including;

• Airport transfers in Istanbul (2), Izmir (2) and Cappadocia (2) • 6 nights' accommodation at the mentioned hotels or similar • 4 day tours as mentioned in the itinerary, including transportation, English speaking guiding, lunches and entrance fees • Domestic flight tickets (Istanbul/Izmir – Izmir/Kayseri) • Dinners in Kusadasi and Cappadocia • Taxes

#### Excluding;

• International flight tickets • Dinners in Istanbul

#### Hotels:

• Istanbul Blue House Hotel [www.bluehouse.com.tr](http://www.bluehouse.com.tr)  
• Kusadasi Charisma Deluxe Hotel [www.charismahotel.com](http://www.charismahotel.com)  
• Cappadocia Turban Hotel [www.turbanurgup.com](http://www.turbanurgup.com)

